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BENGAL RAPE-MURDER

Autopsy on minor victim conducted

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Unpacking the Centre's affidavit on marital rape

Judiciary can decide if it violates a basic right

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Dipa says retirement not an easy decision

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Medicine Nobel 2024:

Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun get the call for discovery of microRNA

The finding revealed what biologists believed they knew about gene regulation to be incomplete

GARY RUVKUN

VICTOR AMBROS

- Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun have been jointly awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology for 2024, the Nobel Academy at the Karolinska Institutet announced on Monday
- They were awarded the prestigious prize for the discovery of microRNA and its role in post-transcriptional gene regulation
- "Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun were interested in how different cell types develop. They discovered microRNA, a new class of tiny RNA molecules that play a crucial role in gene regulation," the Nobel Assembly said in a statement
- Ambros and Ruvkun's work revealed a then previously unknown principle of gene regulation that turned out to be essential for multicellular organisms, including humans
- The duo made their finding by studying the 1-mm-long roundworm *Caenorhabditis elegans*
- The body makes proteins in a complex process with two broad steps: transcription and translation
- During transcription, a cell copies a DNA sequence into messenger RNA (mRNA) in the nucleus. The mRNA moves from the nucleus, through the cell fluid, and attaches itself to the ribosome
- During translation, another type of RNA called transfer RNA (tRNA) 'brings' amino acids to the ribosome, where they are linked together in the order specified by the mRNA to make a protein
- MicroRNA, or miRNA, regulates the production of proteins by bonding with and subsequently silencing the mRNA at an appropriate juncture. The process is called post-transcriptional gene regulation
- Ambros and Ruvkun found the first miRNA gene in *C. elegans* in 1993. It was called lin-4. They confirmed its role by modifying the miRNA to result in different parts of the worm's developmental process to be thrown out of sync
- By studying a second miRNA gene they found seven years later, called let-7, they confirmed miRNAs are actually present across the animal kingdom
- "MiRNAs are proving to be fundamentally important for how organisms develop and function," the Assembly added in its statement

MORE ON WORLD PAGE

Parties gear up for poll verdict in J&K, Haryana

BJP rejects exit poll results in Haryana, Congress faces tussle over Chief Minister's post; with the possibility of a hung Assembly in Jammu and Kashmir, regional parties explore alliance options

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day before the results of the Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana Assembly elections are declared after the counting of votes on Tuesday, parties on opposite sides of the political spectrum on Monday exuded confidence in emerging triumphant in the elections.

Several exit polls have predicted a sweep for the Congress in Haryana and given an edge to its alliance with the National Conference (NC) in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Congress camp in Haryana witnessed an all-too-familiar tussle over the Chief Minister's post, with former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda stating that he was "neither tired nor retired" and his rival Kumari Selja asserting that the final call would be taken by the high command.

Rejecting the exit poll results, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has said the BJP will form the government for a third time with full majority and the Congress will then blame the electronic voting machines (EVMs).

J&K, made a Union Territory after the abrogation of Article 370, witnessed Assembly election after a gap of 10 years. Though the Congress-NC alliance has been projected to emerge as the single largest pre-poll alliance, the lower end of the seat projection points to the possibility of a hung Assembly in J&K.

NC president Farooq Abdullah hinted at opening the doors to rival Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for government formation. Replying to a question on such an alliance, Mr. Abdullah said he would "accept PDP's support from the core of his heart". "We have to go together. There is a need to put up a united face to pull J&K out of the mess it has been plunged into since August 5, 2019. Even if we don't need it, we will take the support," he said.

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MORE REPORTS ON » PAGE 11

Counting day

Both the Haryana and J&K Assembly election results will be announced today. A lowdown:

HARYANA
Total seats **90**
Total contestants **1,031**

J & K
90
873

Parties/alliances in the fray

- Congress + CPI(M)
- BJP
- AAP
- JJP + Aazad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram)
- Bahujan Samaj Party + Indian National Lok Dal
- J&K National Conference + Congress + CPI(M) + J&K National Panthers Party (India)
- J&K Peoples Democratic Party
- BJP

NEARBY

Permission for mining licences deferred

BENGALURU
The Karnataka State Wildlife Board, which met on Monday under the chairmanship of the CM, has deferred the proposal to grant permission for new mining licences around protected forest areas.

» Page 2

Irregularities in PPE kit purchase: Official suspended

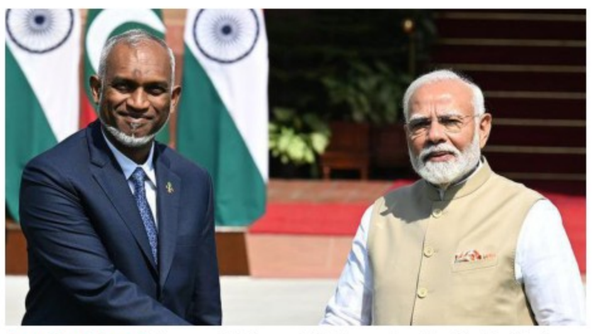
BENGALURU
The State government has suspended Raghu G.P., a former financial adviser to the Department of Medical Education, over alleged irregularities in the procurement of PPE kits and other essential equipment during COVID-19.

» Page 2

With Maldives facing a forex crunch, India gives $750-mn currency swap arrangement

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India signed a major currency swap agreement with the Maldives for $750 million to help the island nation tide over its current foreign currency crunch, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu in New Delhi on Monday.



Boosting ties: Mohamed Muizzu with Narendra Modi in his first bilateral trip to India, in Delhi on Monday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The swap arrangement for $400 million and an additional ₹3,000 crore ($357 million), signed between the Reserve Bank of India and the Maldives Monetary Authority under the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Currency Swap Framework, will be available until 2027. It enables payments between the two countries to be made in different currencies.

Among the agreements signed are for the launch of the RuPay card in the Maldives and handover of 700 houses built with assistance by India. Memorandums of understanding were inked between the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Anti-Corruption Commission of the Maldives and between policing institutes and judicial training institutes; and also for cooperation in sports and youth affairs.

Speaking of people-to-people ties, which were hit by a "boycott Maldives" social media campaign in India in response to criticism of Mr. Modi in the islands, Mr. Muizzu said he hoped Indian tourists, whose numbers have halved this year, would return. "India is one of our largest tourism source markets and we hope to welcome more Indian tourists to the Maldives, allowing for shared growth and understanding between our peoples," Mr. Muizzu said in a joint press event after the talks.

India also agreed to step up cooperation on trade in national currencies, and to work on a Free Trade Agreement, as Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said that other requests made by the Maldives, understood to include debt repayment waivers, further credit lines, and economic assistance, would be "studied" and decided on in the "coming weeks and months". The two countries released a "vision statement" for a "comprehensive economic and maritime security partnership" to be negotiated in the future; inaugurated a jointly constructed runway for an international airport at Hanimadhoo island; and signed an agreement for India to support the Maldives on the refit of a Coast Guard ship.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

CBI files chargesheet in R.G. Kar case

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday filed a chargesheet in the rape and murder of a doctor at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital.

The chargesheet filed before a court in Kolkata, 58 days after the incident, named Sanjoy Roy, the only accused arrested for the crime. While there had been speculation about the involvement of multiple persons in the crime, the agency has for the time being ruled it out by naming only one accused.

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DGCA bans some B-737s on certain landing routes

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has asked operators of Boeing 737 aircraft with a specific rudder part not to use the jets for low-visibility landings owing to a "possible risk of jamming". The directive is based on a loss-of-control incident involving a United Airlines flight in New Jersey, U.S., in February.

The advisory, which comes ahead of the fog season, is effective for Boeing 737 NG and MAX models, a senior DGCA official said.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 12

Woman gets electrocuted after coming in contact with a snapped conductor

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 55-year-old woman died in Tavarekere, on the outskirts of Bengaluru, allegedly after an electric wire snapped and fell on her on Monday morning.

The woman has been identified as Manjamma, a homemaker in Tavarekere.

"There were four women who were standing and talking under one of the electricity lines in the morning. A fault occurred in the line and the insulator inside the pinhole of the conductor was punctured. The connection tripped, and the conductor got grounded. Hearing the sound, the women panicked and ran. Meanwhile, our staff from the substation have run a test charge thinking it was a temporary fault, and as the wire got charged, it snapped and fell," explained H. J. Ramesh, Director Technical, Bangalore Electricity Supply Company, who visited the site.

The officials have not yet been able to determine what the actual cause of death was. "According to my inspection, she died of ground shock, which occurred when the conductor fell down as she was in the vicinity. But after the postmortem report and the Electrical Inspectorate report arrives, we will know if the conductor fell on her or on the ground," Mr. Ramesh said. This is the second instance of death by electrocution due to the snapping of an electrical conductor within Bescom jurisdiction in the last year.

Earlier incident

In November 2023, a 23-year-old woman and her baby died in Kadugodi in Bengaluru after an electrical conductor snapped and fell on them in the early hours of the morning. After public outrage around the incident, Energy Minister K.J. George ordered several investigations into the matter and said that the recommendations from those investigations would be implemented to avoid future accidents. Experts had then recommended equipping conductors with earth guard stirrups to provide earthing to the conductors when they snap and prevent them from falling on to surfaces. In the Tavarekere case, officials said that the wire did not have those stirrups. The Tavarekere police have booked a case against the power utility under Section 106 of Bharatiya Nyay Samhita based on a complaint filed by the husband of the deceased.

Mahantesh Bilagi, Managing Director, Bescom said that he has asked the DT to submit a detailed report to determine why the fault occurred and who is responsible. "We will also declare a compensation soon," he said.

India and fielding — from flashes of brilliance to a consistent sparkle

Profusion of T20s has elevated the art to a glorious spectacle; catching expected to play a key role in the forthcoming Test series Down Under

Magic in the air: Siraj pulled off a sensational catch to send back Shakib in the Kanpur Test. AFP

R. Kaushik

"No great thing is created suddenly." So said Epictetus, the Greek philosopher born into slavery and who was influenced, among others, by Socrates and Hippocrates.

Epictetus was certainly not referring to fielding and/or catching when he made that remark. He was a stoic philosopher who taught that it was 'most important to know oneself and have internal control over thoughts and emotions'. These tenets are keys to success in any walk of life, so why not transpose them to cricket too, in general, and to fielding, more specifically?

The era of picking extraordinary batters alone or exceptional bowlers alone, even if they were downright poor fielders, is long past. Even before the 20-over bug bit the sport in the first half of the 2000s, fielding had come to be accepted as a third crucial discipline, not just an addendum to batting or bowling. Some of the great teams of the past had either electric fielders or assured catchers or both. Indeed, according to Sunil Gavaskar, the greatest Indian fielding team of all time was the one that clinched the World Championship of Cricket crown in Melbourne in 1985, a side that was replete with all-rounders in every sense of the term.

The profusion of T20 cricket has triggered new approaches and elevated fielding to a glorious spectacle. Boundary-line catches where the fielder somehow manages to latch on to the ball, toss it up in the air when they are about to cross the rope, and then comes back into nonchalantly pouching it, are no longer the exception. They also don't come about by accident. One only needs to watch a fielding session of an age-group state side, let alone a franchise or a senior international outfit, to see how meticulously and uncompromisingly the players attempt and complete what once were considered outrageous snaffles.

There is no denying the fact that the T20 format has compelled fielders to become better and better. Tales of Colin Bland hitting one stump time after time are legendary and have attained a mythical status because there isn't ready or extensive television footage, but when Jonty Rhodes, all bustle and energy and athleticism and low centre of gravity, showcased his brilliance upon South Africa's return from isolation in 1991, the cricket world was truly captivated. Thousands flocked the ground to merely watch the Rhodes show, though it must not be forgotten that possibly the first cricketer to win a Player of the Series award primarily for his catching was Gavaskar himself.

At the four-nation Rothmans Cup in Sharjah in 1985, almost immediately after their unbeaten run to the WCC crown, India expertly defended 125 against Pakistan - Gavaskar made only two but held four catches - in the semifinal and then edged out Australia by three wickets in a low-scoring final. The Aussies were bowled out for 139 with Gavaskar taking the catch that got rid of their highest scorer, Kepler Wessels (30). Gavaskar, who had ceded the captaincy to Kapil Dev after leading the side to the Melbourne high, was run out for 20 during India's stuttering chase. His net returns for the tournament were 22 runs and five catches.

Until three and a half months back, the most talked-about catch in Indian cricket was the one Kapil took at Lord's on 25 June 1983, in the final of the last 60-over World Cup. With Viv Richards threatening to make India's 183 appear remarkably miniscule and Madan Lal imploring his captain to give him one more over so that he could have another crack at the great Antiguan, Kapil obliged, then ran a million miles back from mid-wicket to grab the pull that seemed destined to send the ball towards the ropes. Kapil's loping strides and fierce focus as he kept his eyes on the ball over his left shoulder left no room for doubt long before he had completed the formalities. One just knew that there was no way he was not going to hold on to the catch; such is the lot of geniuses that we take even amazing slices of brilliance for granted.

That Kapil catch energised India as they defended their small total with tigerish zeal, eventually turning the world order upside down with one of the upsets of the cricket world. The bookmakers had given India odds of 66 to 1 to go all the way. All the way they did go, triggering a revolution that has catapulted Indian cricket to the dizzying perch it occupies today.

The 1983 World Cup was the last time India went into a global cricketing event as rank outsiders. Apart from perhaps the inaugural T20 World Cup in South Africa in 2007 - India had played just one international in that format, the 'big boys' were all missing and Mahendra Singh Dhoni's band wasn't really expected to pose a major threat - the Indians have entered all subsequent World Cups as among the strong favourites. Commensurate success hasn't followed, and the clamour for a World Cup trophy kept growing with each successive barren run after the ultimate success at the 2011 50-over World Cup at home.

It took a screamer from Suryakumar Yadav off the first ball of the final over of the T20 World Cup final against South Africa on June 29 for India to end their long drought. There's no gainsaying what might have transpired had David Miller's strike off a Hardik Pandya full toss cleared the long-off fence; SKY ensured there was no necessity for speculation, no needless panic, no fraying of nerves, no furious attacks on fingernails, with the most ridiculous show of composure under extreme pressure, pulling off the catch-the-ball-toss-it-up-in-the-air-exit-playing-arena-and-return-to-complete-the-catch routine with consummate ease, as good as assuring that Rohit Sharma would wrap his hands around the elusive piece of silverware.

Just a week back, Rohit himself was in the limelight for a stunning overhead catch at mid-off to evict Litton Das on day four of the Kanpur Test against Bangladesh. The loss of 235 overs over the first three days threatened to scupper India's hunt for World Test Championship points, but the captain's sensational grab when the Bangladesh stumper charged needlessly Mohammed Siraj roused his colleagues. Siraj, not necessarily one of the more athletic or assured fielders, himself reprised his skipper's magic with a fabulous one-handed catch running back from mid-off to pack off Shakib Al Hasan. The twin blows, not long separated, provided the impetus on which India rode to a scarcely believable seven-wicket victory. The batters have been eulogised for maintaining a run-rate of 8.22 per over across 34.4 overs, the bowlers have been celebrated for picking up 20 wickets in a mere 119.2 overs on a reasonably unresponsive deck. As they should be. But less extolled has been the catching, not just of Rohit and Siraj but also at gully to the pacers of Yashasvi Jaiswal, who is showing himself as an excellent replacement at that position for his Mumbai colleague, Ajinkya Rahane.

While the outside world might be taken in by the magnificence of strokeplay or the luminescence of a Jasprit Bumrah spell, within the contours of the team, the focus on work in the field is massive. "I was just informed that out of the 24 catches that came our way, we took 23 of them, which is a great result," Rohit remarked in the immediacy of the 2-0 lead that consolidated India's position at the helm of the WTC points table. "It may look easy on television, but it isn't."

India have had a series of wonderful fielding coaches over the last decade and a half. R. Sridhar, who was with the side for seven years between 2014 and 2021, has been widely credited with changing attitudes, mindsets and approaches to fielding and catching, while his successor T. Dilip, a fellow Hyderabadi, has won the trust and the admiration of the playing group for his innovative methodology. Dilip is principally responsible for the introduction of the 'fielding medal'; the pomp and ceremony surrounding the award of that medal has taken social media by storm and the players might not entirely be truthful if they say that there isn't a healthy competition amongst them to be the recipient of that coveted medal. The fielding medal isn't just an acknowledgement of how crucial the discipline, once a poor cousin to batting and bowling, has become but also a recognition of the not-so-glamorous performances that can easily slide by unnoticed but which play substantial roles in altering the balance of a game at a critical juncture.

India will need to be on top of their fielding game in Australia during the five-Test series starting in November. They will need to grab everything that comes their way when the pacers create chances, which they invariably will. The emergence of Shubman Gill as an excellent poucher at slip to complement Jaiswal's great hands, and the increasing assurance with which the once-jumpy Virat Kohli and KL Rahul man the slip cordon are reassuring developments. But as much as the catching, India's ground fielding too must step up. The bigger grounds Down Under and the propensity of the Australian batters to look for two and a half when only one might appear par for the course will test their fitness, agility, throwing arms and staying power. It might be a slight exaggeration to state that fielding will prove the difference, but only a slight one, mind.

THE GIST

- There is no denying the fact that the T20 format has compelled fielders to become better and better
- India have had a series of wonderful fielding coaches over the last decade and a half
- The fielding medal isn't just an acknowledgement of how crucial the discipline, once a poor cousin to batting and bowling, has become but also a recognition of the not-so-glamorous performances that can easily slide by unnoticed

Board defers granting permission for mining licences around protected forest areas

28 proposals were submitted before the board seeking permission for mining within 10 km of the Kappattagudda Wildlife Sanctuary

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

It was decided to issue notices to halt unauthorised mining within a one km radius of the Kappatagudda Wildlife Sanctuary. FILE PHOTO

The Karnataka State Wildlife Board, which met on Monday under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, has deferred the proposal to grant permission for new mining licences around protected forest areas.

A total of 28 proposals were submitted before the board seeking permission for mining within 10 km of the Kappattagudda Wildlife Sanctuary in Gadag district. Likewise, another proposal that was placed before the board was a proposal for mining within 10 km of the Cauvery Extended Wildlife Sanctuary in the Ramanagara and Chamarajanagar districts. Both have been deferred.

Environment Minister Eshwar B. Khandre said the Board has decided to defer the 28 proposals.

Investigation directed

"During the 16th State Wildlife Board meeting, discussions were held on the matter. It was decided to issue notices to halt unauthorised mining activities within a one km radius of the Kappatagudda Wildlife Sanctuary.

Further, an investigation into the issue was directed, and a factual report on unauthorised mining was to be submitted, along with a review of the Supreme Court's orders and legal aspects," he said. He added that the proposals were also to be reconsidered in the next State Wildlife Board meeting.

"Accordingly, the proposal was presented in today's meeting, but a decision was made to postpone the proposals," he added.

In Bhadra reserve

Mr. Khandre also said at the meeting approval was given for the inclusion of Choradenahalli State Forest and Kayitotlu minor forest areas in the Bhadra Tiger Reserve buffer zone under the Bhadravathi division.

He added that a revised proposal for the boundary of the Shettihalli Sanctuary, aimed at safeguarding the interests of the people of Shivamogga city, was reviewed.

"The boundary has been fixed at a total of 395.64 square kilometres, and the board has given its approval. The proposal will be submitted to the Central Wildlife Board," he added.

Hesaraghatta grassland declared protected

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Wildlife Board approved the proposal to declare the Hesaraghatta grassland area in Bengaluru as the Greater Hesaraghatta Grassland Conservation Reserve. Forest Minister Ehwar Khandre stated that declaring Hesaraghatta as a protected grassland has been a long-standing demand.

"There had even been protests regarding this. The government, committed to environmental conservation, has made this significant decision today," he said. He added that in the 15th State Wildlife Board meeting held on January 19, 2021, this proposal was rejected.

"However, the Karnataka High Court directed a reconsideration of the matter. Our government has made this decision with the important goal of ensuring that Bengaluru doesn't just grow as a concrete jungle, but also retains green spaces," he said.

The area includes 356 acres of the Hesaraghatta grassland, 383 acres of Byrasandra Lake, 165 acres of Byatha Lake, 1,356 acres of Hesaraghatta Lake, and 2,750 acres under the jurisdiction of the Animal Husbandry Department.

"The board had approved a total of 5,010 acres to be declared as the Greater Hesaraghatta Grassland Conservation Reserve under Section 36A of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, " Mr. Khandre said.

Procurement of PPE kits during COVID: Official suspended

PPE kits kept for sale outside shops during the pandemic. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has suspended Raghu G.P., a former financial adviser to the Department of Medical Education, over alleged irregularities in the procurement of PPE kits and other essential equipment during COVID-19.

Mr. Raghu, who was financial adviser at the Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology in Bengaluru at the time of his suspension, was found to have violated norms outlined in the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act, according to the GO issued on Monday.

The GO cited dereliction of duty, as revealed in a report submitted by a panel that probed the procurement discrepancies during the pandemic.

The official order stated: "Upon review of the investigation report dated 27.12.2023, it is clear that tender procurement rules were violated while purchasing PPE kits and other equipment by the Directorate of Medical Education." The report highlighted various alleged irregularities committed by Mr. Raghu during his service.

The inquiry panel was headed by former High Court judge John Michael D'Cunha, who submitted a report to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on August 31.

This inquiry was initiated after corruption allegations emerged over procurement of medical supplies; K. Sudhakar was the Health Minister in the then BJP government, headed by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

Aquifer water treatment plant facilitates supply of potable water to Devanahalli

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

A shallow aquifer has been integrated with a water treatment plant near Sihineeru lake at Devanahalli, on the outskirts of Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

Away from the bustling Devanahalli town, on the outskirts of Bengaluru, a shallow aquifer water treatment plant is facilitating the supply of potable water for the domestic needs of over 45,000 people living in the town. The first of its kind project in Karnataka, it is helping the town municipality cater to the growing demand for water.

The plant, which treats water in two phases, was launched on August 30. Devanahalli Town Municipality has tied up with Biome Environmental Trust (BET) and Boson Whitewater (BW) to implement the project that was conceptualised in 2016. The plant supplies 6.4 lakh litres of treated water (potable) every day. The project is catering 10% of total demand for water. The water quality adheres to BIS-10500 drinking water standard. However, this water is being used for other domestic purposes.

The BET and BW are availing shallow aquifer, which is being recharged by Sihineerukere, located adjacent to the Devanahalli fort.

From HN valley

Avinash Krishnamurthy, co-founder of BET, told *The Hindu*, "Sihineerukere, apart from receiving rainwater from its catchment area, collects water pumped from Bagaluru lake. The treated domestic waste water from Hebbal-Nagawara (HN) Valley flows to Bagaluru lake and is then pumped to Sihineerukere."

The lake water acts as the catalyst to recharge the aquifer. Understanding the benefit, an old well that was in poor condition was rejuvenated. This old well, which is 30 feet deep and 25 feet in circumference, can provide up to 2 lakh litres of water per day.

Foundation laid

"In 2018-19, the town municipality had decided to close the well as it was not being used, but the BET convinced them to scrap the plan. In 2020-21, the well was desilted and rejuvenated after which due to the aquifer recharge the well filled with water," Mr. Krishnamurthy said. "This laid the foundation for the project," he added.

Vikas Brahmavar Adiga, co-founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of BW, said, "In 2022, the work on the plant commenced. The first phase was completed in 2023, and second phase in August 2024. The first phase uses aquifer water from the well. While Sihineerukere receives treated water from Bagaluru, aquifer water is treated naturally by the earth. This water is pumped into the treatment plant. The plant then carries out disc filtration, high iodine value carbon filtration, UV filtration and chlorination before supplying the water to Devanahalli."

For the second phase, six filter borewells, which are 100 feet deep, are used. The water from these borewells is pumped into a sump and then filtered at a different level before supplying to people through municipality connection. Mr. Adiga said the project is energy-efficient, using just 0.25 units of electricity per 1,000 litres of water.

RCB restores two lakes in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a formal handover ceremony held on Saturday, Royal Challengers Bengaluru officially transferred the fully restored Ittgalpura and Sadenahalli Lakes at Ittagalpura village to the local panchayat.

The event was attended by Vishwanath, MLA, and RCB's Vice President and Head, Rajesh Menon, who outlined the significance of the project under the team's long-term "Go Green Initiative."

Water security

The restoration, carried out in collaboration with India Cares Foundation and Friends of Lakes, revived the once-depleted water bodies, ensuring future water security for the region. A letter presented by RCB highlighted the extensive work done, focusing on interventions that improved lake sustainability and quality.

Rajesh Menon emphasised the broader impact of the initiative, stating that the project was designed to strengthen drought resilience in water-scarce areas of Bengaluru, which rely heavily on groundwater.

Selection of lakes

"The selection of Sadenahalli and Ittagalpura lakes was pivotal due to their role in supporting downstream lakes, securing water for the region, and aiding flood control during monsoons," Mr. Menon said.

झारखण्ड सरकार
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, चतरा।
ई– अतिअल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई–निविदा संख्या– 25/2024-25/RWD/CHATRA दिनांक– 05.10.2024

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, चतरा द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र० सं०	आईडेन्टिफिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि		कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	टेण्डर कॉल सं०
			अंक में (लाख)	अक्षर में		
1	RWD/ CHATRA/154/ 2024-25	रूगुद आर.ई.ओ० रोड से खनगड्डा तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लं०–2.060 कि०मी०)।	241.555	दो करोड़ एकतालीस लाख पचपन हजार पाँच सौ मात्र	12 माह	प्रथम

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :– 07.10.2024
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :– 14.10.2024 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।
4. ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :– 16.10.2024 अपराह्न 3.30 बजे।
5. ई–निविदा आमंत्रित करनेवाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, चतरा, द्वितीय तल, विकास भवन, चतरा।
6. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष संख्या :– **06541-296208**

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट **www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in** में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, चतरा।

PR 338199Rural Work Department (24-25)D

झारखण्ड सरकार
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर
rwdjamshedpur@gmail.com

ई–अति अल्पकालिन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई–अति अल्पकालिन पुनर्निविदा संख्या:- **02/2024-25/RIV/STPKG/RWD/EE/JSR** दिनांक :- **04.10.2024**

कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र. सं.	आईडेन्टीफिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में)		कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	टेण्डर कॉल संख्या
			अंक में	अक्षर में		
1.	RWD/EE/JSR/ STPKG/18/2023-24	कालिकापुर से बेरहाकाटा तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं–5.280 कि0मी0)	3,59,13,200.00	तीन करोड़ उन्सठ लाख तेरह हजार दो सौ रू0 मात्र	15 माह	पा¡चवा
		L063 सोनापोस से पथारभेजा तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं–3.300 कि0मी0)	1,82,70,300.00	एक करोड़ बिरासी लाख सतर हजार तीन सौ रू0 मात्र		
		ग्वालकाटा बडघुटू चौक से ग्वालकाटा तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं–2.650 कि0मी0)	1,37,19,200.00	एक करोड़ सैंतीस लाख उन्नीस हजार दो सौ रू0 मात्र		
		L063-T03 से टूटकुघुटू तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं–3.400 कि0मी0)	2,05,76,700.00	दो करोड़ पा¡च लाख छिहतर हजार सात सौ रू0 मात्र		
		L119 हाता–जादूगोड़ा रोड से छोटा सिगदी तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं–1.800 कि0मी0)	1,10,67,500.00	एक करोड़ दस लाख सड़सठ हजार पाँच सौ रू0 मात्र		
		L049 हाता–जादूगोड़ा रोड से कमलपुर तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं–7.100 कि0मी0)	3,90,23,000.00	तीन करोड़ नब्बे लाख तेईस हजार रू0 मात्र		
		कुल	13,85,69,900.00	तेरह करोड़ पचासी लाख उन्हतर हजार नौ सौ रू0 मात्र		

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:– **08.10.2024 ।**
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय:– **16.10.2024** अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।
4. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि jharkhandtenders.gov.in के माध्यम से ऑनलाइन मोड में स्वीकार की जाएगी।
5. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :– **17.10.2024** अपराह्न 5.00 बजे।
6. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर, ब्लॉक–करनडीह, थाना–परसुडीह, जमशेदपुर, झारखण्ड, पिन–831002।
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0– 0657–2298902।
8. विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर

PR 338257 (Rural Development) 24-25 (D)

INSTITUTE ON MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION (IMAGE)
(AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA)
Siripur, BHUBANESWAR-751003, Odisha
Ph.- (0674) 2562151, Fax - 2561879; E-mail : imagebbsr@rediffmail.com

No.4516 , dt: 07.10.2024

RFP for selection of Agency for the Establishment of Project Management Unit (PMU) under Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana (Cafeteria) Scheme at Department of A&FE(O)

IMAGE invites Request for Proposal of (RFP) for **"Selection of Agency for the Establishment of Project Management Unit (PMU) under Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana (Cafeteria) Scheme at Department of A&FE(O)"**. The detailed RFP document can be downloaded from the website **https://agriodisha.nic.in. & https://tenderodisha.gov.in** from dt.07.10.2024. The last date for submitting the RFP documents along with Bid Processing Fees of Rs.11,800/- (Rupees Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred) only in favour of Director, IMAGE payable at Bhubaneswar through speed Post/ Registered post/ Courier/ By hand with receipt on or before dt.08.11.2024 up to 12 Noon. The Pre Proposal Meeting will be held at 3rd floor Conference Hall, Krushi Bhawan, Bhubaneswar on 25.10.2024 at 11.00 AM. The Technical Bids will be opened on dt.11.11.2024 at 5.00 PM. The date of Opening of Financial Bids shall be intimated later on. IMAGE reserves the right to accept or Reject any/ all proposals/ terminate the entire selection process at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- DIRECTOR, IMAGE

CAD-1335 : OIPR-01408/11/0009/2425

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Farrukh Shadab Ansari W/o Mohammed Shadab Ansari R/o B1201, Godrej Air, Hoodi Main Road, Hoodi, Bengaluru - 560048 have changed my name to Farrukh Aziz Ansari for all purposes.

I, MAMATHA, R/at No.17, Perfecta Primia, Flat No.101, I Floor, 4th Cross, Shankarpuram, Bangalore-560004 have changed my name to Mamatha Ramesh Kumar Jain vide Affidavit dated 01.10.2024 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani. Bangalore.

I KUSH Vinod Kumar Bothra, R/at Flat No.OB-1802, Park West Apartment, Binnypet, Magadi Road, Bangalore-560023 have changed my name to Kush Bothra vide Affidavit dated 01.10.2024 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani. Bangalore.

I JULIE Dilip Kothari, R/at No.5, 3rd Floor, Middle School Road, V.V.Puram, Bangalore-560004 have changed my name to Julie Kothari vide Affidavit dated 07.10.2024 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani. Bangalore.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE SUBORDINATE JUDGE (ADDL) PALAKKAD
O.S. 579/2012, FD.IA 1102/2019
Varsha Snakaran Thambi, D/o. Late. Vasantha.S.Thampi, residing at Flat No. 101, Plot No. 274, Amrutha CHS, Sector-21, Nerul, (E), Navi Mumbai 400706.
–Petitioner
(1) Suresh Nair, S/o. Balakrishnan Nair, Post Box No. 665, Abudhabi, U.A.E. (2) Suseela Nair, S/o. Balakrishnan Nair, residing at 14/160, Ramakrishna Nagar, Swami Vivekanand Road, Khar (East), Maharashtra-400052 (3) Sunitha Varathan, D/o. Balakrishnan Nair, residing at 6/33, Vijay Vilas, Ghodbunder Road, Thane (W), Maharashtra 400607 (4) Snehal Ajay, D/o. Late Sujatha, C/o. Ajay Ravindran, Sales Department, Ardiya Industrial Area, Aramex, Kuwait (5) Meenal, D/o. Late Sujatha, No. 5, Ganga Thriven, Veersavarkar Nagar, Navghar, Vasai, Thane, Maharashtra (6) K.G. Prasanna Kumar, D/o. Devi Amma, residing at Amrutha CHS, Flat No. 101, Plot No. 274, Sector-21, Nerul, (E) Navi Mumbai 400706 (7) K.G. Prithviraj, D/o. Late Devi Amma, Nandanvan CHS, RH No. 17B-Sector-17-Nerul, (E) Navi Mumabi 400706 (8)K.G. Prameela, D/o. Late Devi Amma, 1/A-Wing, Regal Accord CHS, Vijay Vihar Complex Evershine City, Vasai (East), Thane District (9) K. Preetha, D/o. Late K.G. Prabhavathi, Pusti, 45/46, IIIrd Main, IInd Phase, Amrita Nagar, Kasawana Halli, Bangalore (10) K. Priya, D/o. Late K.G. Prabhavathy, residing at No. 304, Gandharva CHS Plot No. 38, Sector-40, Seawood (West), Nerul Navi, Mumbai - 400706 (11) K. Sudha, D/o. Late K.G. Prabhavathy, residing at BLK-420#12-319 Hougang, Ave-10, Singapore-530420 (12) K. Suja, D/o. Late K.G. Prabhavathy, Silver Castle, Flate No. 104, Sector 50 (New) Seawood (W), Nerul Navi, Mumbai-400 706 (13) K. Jayalakshmi Nair, W/o. Late Viswanathan Nair, residing at Shakthi Tower, Flat No. A.301, C.S. Complex, Anderi East, Mumbai (14) Sheela Menon, D/o. Late Viswanathan Nair, residing at Shakthi Tower, Flat No. A.301, C.S. Complex, Anderi East, Mumbai (15) Satish Nair, S/o. Late Viswanathan Nair, residing at 3A, Trams Residency MIDL Room No. 23, Subash Nagar, Anderi East, Mumbai (16) Sajith Nair, S/o. Late Vuswanathan Nair, residing at Boby Avenue, Flat No. 602, C.S. Complex, Near Sakti Nagar, Dahalsar, East Mumbai-400 068 (17 Jayabharathi, 99, Sreehari Garden, 3rd Street, Amaravathipalayam, Perunthozhuvu Road, Opp. Dharmapuram Road, Kovil Vazhi, Thiruppur.
–Respondent Nos.2 to 9 and 11 to 19
It is hereby informed that the above Petition for passing final decree is posted on 15-10-2024 at 11 A.M and objections if any is solicited.
By order, Dated 09.09.2024
P. ANIL (Advocate for Petitioner)

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Ansari Md Shadab A R S/O, Abdul Razique Ansari R/o B1201, Godrej Air, Hoodi Main Road, Hoodi , Bengaluru - 560048 have changed my name to Mohammed Shadab Ansari for all purposes.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDL CITY CIVIL & SESSION JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-68)
ORIGINAL SUIT No. 6809 OF 2022
BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Ltd.
A body corporate incorporated and registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed as a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at : "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007 And having its Regional office at ICICI Bank Ltd., 11th Floor, C-Wing, Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bengaluru- 560 001. And represented by its POA Holder Mr. M Rohit Ali, S/o. Ishrath Ali M., Aged about 26 years
...Plaintiff
AND :
Mr. Gourav Thapa
S/o. Gopal Kaji Thapa,
Aged about 32 years,
R/a 60, 1st Cross, Idli Yo Idli,
Lakshmamma Layout,
Kalyana Nagara,
Bengaluru-560 043
...Defendant
Summons/Notice through Paper Publication
Mr. Gourav Thapa
S/o. Gopal Kaji Thapa,
Aged about 32 years,
R/a 60, 1st Cross, Idli Yo Idli,
Lakshmamma Layout,
Kalyana Nagara, Bengaluru-560 043. ...Defendant
WHEREAS the above named Plaintiff has instituted case against you for recovery loan amount Rs. 4,45,795/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Forty Five Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety Five Only) together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization.
You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble City Civil & Session Judge Court (CCH-68), at Bengaluru, in person or by a Advocate/ Pleader on 4/11/2024 at 11.00 A.M. to answer the questions of the same. Failing which the matter will be heard and determined as "EX-PARTE".
Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 1st day of October, 2024.
By the order of the court
Senior Judge ,
City Civil Court,
Bengaluru
Advocate for Plaintiff
Besides 12th Cross,
Cubbonpet Mann Rand,
Bengaluru-560 02

Genome editing is bringing clarity to the study of hereditary cancers

CRISPR screens have transformed the study of BRCA genes by enabling high-throughput functional genetic analysis. That is, using CRISPR-Cas9, researchers can target the BRCA genes and create specific mutations in them to study their effects on DNA repair and cancer development

Sridhar Sivasubbu
Vinod Scaria

All cancers occur due to genetic mutations in the body's genome, and a subset of these cancers are the result of inherited mutations. ISTOCK

The International Agency for Research on Cancer's estimates of the burden of 36 cancers in 185 countries suggest one in five individuals has a lifetime risk of developing cancer. The agency also estimated that one in nine males and one in 12 females will die of cancer. In all, the agency counted 20 million new cancer cases and 9.74 million cancer-related deaths in 2022, which it said could rise to a whopping 32 million new cases and 16 million deaths by 2045. By then, Asia alone may account for almost half of all cases worldwide.

All cancers occur due to genetic mutations in the body's genome, and a subset of these cancers are the result of inherited mutations. Researchers have estimated that around 10% of all individuals with any cancer could have inherited a genetic mutation implicated in the cancer; they have also found the prevalence of inherited mutations to be higher among individuals with ovarian cancer (20%). It is 10% among those with breast, colorectal, lung, or prostate cancers, and a lower 6% among those with cervical cancer.

The BRCA genes

Scientists have exhaustively documented hereditary cancers. We know there are more than 50 genetic syndromes (collections of symptoms) that predispose individuals to cancer and are caused by genetic variants that humans are capable of inheriting.

In fact, the discovery of the BRCA1 and the BRCA2 DNA-repair genes in 1994 and 1995, by Mary-Claire King et al. and Mark Skolnick et al., respectively, bolstered our understanding of hereditary cancer syndromes.

Hereditary breast-ovarian cancer syndrome is a relatively common cancer predisposition syndrome caused by mutations in the BRCA1 and the BRCA2 genes (or BRCA). In women, genetic mutations in BRCA primarily increase the risk of cancers of the breasts, ovaries, and fallopian tube. In men, they make prostate cancer and male breast cancer more likely. Many studies have also shown variations in the make-up of BRCA genes could increase the risk of pancreatic, colorectal, uterine, and some other cancers.

By some estimates, BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations are present in around one in every 400 individuals, and therefore have an elevated risk of developing cancer. Researchers have also documented a higher than average prevalence in certain populations by virtue of these groups carrying specific variants of these genes. For example, among the Ashkenazi Jews that emerged in Central Europe and their descendants, around one in 40 individuals carry mutations in the BRCA genesis – about 10-times more common than in the general population.

This higher prevalence has been attributed to some genetic bottlenecks and founder effects within the community. A genetic bottleneck is when the genetic diversity in a population drops (due to various factors), leaving their gene pool ill-equipped to fend off diseases and other threats that require adaptation. When a small group of individuals with a genetic bottleneck found a new population, the bottleneck's effects became pronounced in this group – a phenomenon called the founder effect.

Testing for mutations in the BRCA gene is crucial because it helps individuals and clinicians identify higher risk sooner and develop personalised prevention strategies, including increased surveillance, preventive surgery, and/or targeted therapies. In a May 17 paper in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, the American Society of Clinical Oncology recommended 15 genes in all to ascertain an individual's risk of developing breast and ovarian cancers.

There are targeted therapies available today for individuals who develop cancers due to mutations in the BRCA genes or in genes implicated in other DNA-repair pathways. One such involves poly (ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) inhibitors, a new class of chemotherapy drugs. Investigators have reported promising results from recent clinical trials of PARP inhibitors, particularly in combination with platinum-based chemotherapy, offering hope for millions of people facing or experiencing hereditary cancers associated with specific mutations.

Our understanding of cancer genes and the mutations that cause cancer has improved significantly of late. One reason is tools like CRISPR screens, which have transformed the way researchers study the BRCA genes by enabling high-throughput functional genetic analysis. That is, using CRISPR-Cas9 technology, researchers can target the BRCA genes and create specific mutations in them in order to study their effects on DNA repair and cancer development.

Researchers have also used such CRISPR-based methods to explore an individual's propensity to resist targeted therapies. For example, cancers involving mutated BRCA genes are sensitive to PARP inhibitors. But studies have shown many mutations in other genes involved in DNA repair could also influence the response to PARP inhibitors, and there doesn't yet exist a consistent method to predict it in clinical settings. So last year, a study published in the journal *Nature Communications* used genome-wide CRISPR-Cas9 screens to identify specific mutations that increase the sensitivity to PARP inhibitors.

Scientists have documented hereditary cancers. There are more than 50 syndromes that predispose individuals to cancer, caused by genetic variants that humans are capable of inheriting

Risk is a spectrum

In another, more recent paper, researchers at the Wellcome Sanger Institute in the U.K. reported identifying more than 3,000 genetic changes in the *RAD51C* gene, which is also crucial for DNA repair, that may significantly increase the risk of breast and ovarian cancer. After they mapped the structure of the protein encoded by this gene, the researchers were able to pinpoint the portions they determined to be critical for repairing DNA. So drugs targeting this portion could pave the way for new therapeutic strategies.

The researchers used a technique called saturation genome editing to examine 9,188 variants, revealing that 3,094 could disrupt the gene's function and increase ovarian cancer risk six-fold and aggressive breast cancer risk four-fold. They also discovered variants that partially impaired RAD51C function, suggesting a broader spectrum of risk for breast and ovarian cancers than previously understood.

The findings, published in *Cell* on September 18, offer novel insights that clinicians can use to clarify the effects of RAD51C mutations.

Importantly, the study confirmed genetic risk lies on a spectrum influenced by the extent to which genetic changes affect protein function while emphasising the value of large-scale variant analysis for better personalised medicine and cancer prevention strategies. The researchers are preparing to apply similar techniques to other genes, with plans to eventually cover the entire human genome.

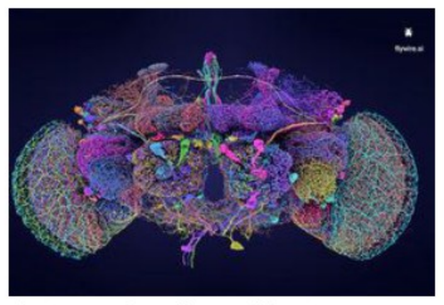
Cancer discovered early

Population prevalence studies play an important role in identifying the spread of certain hereditary cancers in different groups. These studies help uncover genetic risk factors that may be more common in certain populations due to founder events. In tandem, at-risk individuals need to undergo genetic screening at regular intervals.

The result will potentially be a cancer discovered early, which will help the individual make more informed healthcare decisions, alert their family members to risk for them as well, and adopt therapies likely to be more effective, including preventive treatment and lifestyle changes.

The ultimate outcome is for cancer morbidity and mortality to drop and, beyond, for everyone to have healthier lives.

(The authors work *at Karkinos Healthcare and are adjunct professors at IIT Kanpur and the Dr. D.Y. Patil Medical College and Research Centre. sridhar.sivasubbu@gmail.com, vinod.scaria@karkinos.in)*



This image released last week by Princeton University shows the largest neurons of the fruit fly brain connectome. AFP

Scientists map fruit fly brain in neurobio milestone

Reuters

Scientists have announced a milestone in neurobiological research with the mapping of the entire brain of an adult fruit fly, a feat that may provide insight into brains across the animal kingdom, including people.

The research detailed more than 50 million connections between more than 139,000 neurons in the insect, a species whose scientific name is Drosophila melanogaster and is often used in neurobiological studies. The research sought to decipher how brains are wired and the signals underlying healthy brain functions.

"You might be asking why we should care about the brain of a fruit fly. My simple answer is that if we can truly understand how any brain functions, it's bound to tell us something about all brains," said Princeton University professor of neuroscience and computer science Sebastian Seung, one of the co-leaders of the work published in a series of studies in the journal *Nature*.

The fruit fly brain is less than 1 mm wide. "It's beautiful," said University of Cambridge neuroscientist and research co-leader Gregory Jefferis.

The map devised by the researchers provided a wiring diagram, known as a connectome, for the brain of an adult fruit fly. Similar research previously was conducted with simpler organisms, such as the worm Caenorhabditis elegans and the fruit fly's larval stage. The adult fruit fly presented more complicated

More than 50 million connections between more than 139,000 neurons in the insect were detailed. The research aims to decipher how brains are wired and how to establish if the brain is healthy

behaviours to study through its brain wiring.

"One of the major questions we're addressing is how the wiring in the brain, its neurons and connections, can give rise to animal behaviour," said Princeton neuroscientist Mala Murthy, another of the co-leaders of the research.

"And flies are an important model system for neurosciences. Their brains solve many of the same problems we do... They're capable of sophisticated behaviours like the execution of walking and flying, learning and memory behaviours, navigation, feeding, and even social interactions, which is a behaviour that we studied in my lab at Princeton," Murthy added.

One of the studies analysed brain circuits underlying walking and discovered how flies halt. Another analysed the fly's taste network and grooming circuits behind behaviour such as when it uses a leg to remove dirt from its antennae. Another looked at the visual system, including how the fly's eyes process motion and colour information. Still another one analysed connectivity through the brain, discovering a large assemblage of "hub neurons" that may speed up information flow.

The researchers fashioned a map tracking the organisation of the hemispheres and behavioural circuits inside the fly's brain. They also identified the full set of cell classes in its brain, pinpointing different varieties of neurons and chemical connections – synapses – between these nerve cells, and looked at the types of chemicals secreted by the neurons.

The work was conducted by a large international collaboration of scientists known as the FlyWire Consortium.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Tools of the weatherman's trade: keeping us high and dry

Siva Shakthi A.

QUESTION 1

_____ radar boosts the accuracy with which a computer can predict rain by transmitting and receiving pulses in vertical and horizontal directions. This allows returning signals to convey information about both dimensions of a target (like a cloud). Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 2

Wind currents across the northern hemisphere rotate counter-clockwise, and those in the southern hemisphere rotate clockwise in low pressure. This occurrence, together with the _____ force, leads to cyclones. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 3

What is the name for the closed loops of air created when convection nearer the equator in both hemispheres rises at the equator and sinks at around 30 degrees latitude? These loops are responsible for the 'trade winds'.

QUESTION 4

Daniel Farenheit constructed the first mercury thermometer by refining Ole Rømer's concept. He used the freezing point of a solution containing an equal mixture of _____ and _____ as the zero point of the mercury thermometer. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 5

The name of this cloud comes from the Latin for "heap." Strong updrafts of warm, humid air help form these clouds, which may ascend to heights of up to 12 km.

QUESTION 6

Renaissance innovator Leon Battista Alberti invented one of the earliest wind speed metres in the 15th century. It included a rotating vane that cycled in response to wind pressure. What is the name of this device?

Answers to October 3 quiz:
1. Light-emitting compounds in fireflies – **Ans: Luciferins**
2. Symbiotic root fungi crucial for nutrient exchange – **Ans: Ectomycorrhizal fungi**
3. Ethnomycologist who introduced psilocybin mushrooms to the West – **R. Gordon Wasson**
4. Halophilic fungi manage this to minimise water loss – **Ans: Osmotic pressure**
5. Mycologist who applied immunologic principles for taxonomy in 1931 – **Ans: Rhoda Williams Benham**
Visual: **Beatrix Potter**
First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Dalbeer Pharswan | Anmol Agrawal

Answers to October 4 quiz:
1. Molecules the body uses for energy during extended fasting – **Ans: Ketones**
2. Hormone secreted in the stomach to signal hunger – **Ans: Ghrelin**
3. Longevity-related proteins activated by fasting – **Ans: Sirtuins**
4. Idea that storing fat was evolutionarily advantageous – **Ans: Thrifty gene hypothesis**
5. Metabolic condition often improved by fasting – **Ans: Diabetes**
Visual: **Insulin**
First contact: P.N. Moorthy | K.N. Viswanathan | Nischal Anand | Dalbeer Pharswan | Khadeeja Misriya

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, OCT. 08	
RISE	06:09 SET 18:05
RISE	10:31 SET 21:59
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 09	
RISE	06:09 SET 18:04
RISE	11:27 SET 22:53
THURSDAY, OCT. 10	
RISE	06:09 SET 18:03
RISE	12:22 SET 23:52

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	24
Mysuru	31	20
Bengaluru	29	22

Bengaluru Today
29°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be sight warm. Night also will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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Namma Metro coaches to be wrapped with ads

Bengaluru now joins cities like Delhi, Hyderabad, and Kochi where the trains have adverts; the primary objective of this initiative is to boost non-fare revenue

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

For the first time, advertisements will be displayed on Namma Metro trains as the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has issued its first tender for this initiative, marking a new approach to generating non-fare revenue.

BMRCL officials confirmed that trains on the Green and Purple lines will soon be wrapped with advertisements. They said the view through the windows would not be obstructed. "They will be applied in a manner that preserves the aesthetic appeal of the trains. This is the first time we are making such a venture. Since our inception in 2011, we are the only metro system in India that hasn't displayed advertisements on its trains," said a BMRCL official.

The BMRCL operates 57 six-coach train sets across the two lines.

Focus on non-fare revenue

The primary objective is to boost non-fare revenue. Metro systems across India have already adopted this strategy, with Delhi, Hyderabad, and Kochi wrapping trains with ads for several years. Delhi Metro started this practice in 2014.

Now, one train has been similarly wrapped, but not for commercial purposes. In March 2022, BMRCL covered a train with imagery and slogans commemorating India's freedom struggle as part of the "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" programme. It cost approximately ₹8.5 lakh and took 10 days to complete.

BMRCL officials said the advertisements will not obstruct the view through the windows. FILE PHOTO

BMRCL officials said advertising inside trains and stations has been an ongoing effort to generate non-fare revenue. However, in August 2018, BMRCL suffered a setback when the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) banned outdoor advertisements, including those on metro pillars and the medians beneath viaducts, following a High Court order. Prior to this ban, BMRCL earned about ₹10 crore annually from such advertisements.

Other non-fare initiatives

In 2023, BMRCL resumed granting permission for filming on station premises and inside metro coaches.

Current non-fare revenue initiatives
- Film shoots on premises
- Leasing space for retail, ATMs, and parking spaces
- Promotional kiosks
- Advertisements on station premises
- EV charging stations
- Telecom towers and fibre cables
- Land lease to IKEA

It also continues to lease space for retail outlets, ATMs, and parking at metro stations. Other initiatives include the establishment of promotional kiosks, electric vehicle charging stations, and leasing space for telecom towers and optical fibre cables.

In 2017, it leased 13 acres of its property near Nagasandra metro station to IKEA India Pvt. Ltd. under a 60-year agreement. This deal brought in ₹251 crore.

Aesthetic concerns

The move to have adverts on trains has sparked mixed reactions from commuters. Maya Chandrasekhar said, "I understand that BMRCL needs to raise funds, but I hope these advertisements don't make the trains look garish."

Nithin Kumar said, "We're already bombarded with ads everywhere – on buses, hoardings, and even our phones. They should not turn the trains into moving billboards."

Mahesh Prabhu said that ads must be tastefully done and shouldn't obstruct the view through the windows. "If the revenue can help keep fares low and improve services, I'm all for it."

Compensation for 63 flood-hit homes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has announced financial assistance of up to ₹10,000 for each of the 63 homes in Mahalakshmi Layout that were affected by severe flooding on Saturday night.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath confirmed the decision after discussions with the zonal commissioner. "We can allocate up to ₹10,000 per house from our internal resources. So far, we have identified around 63 houses impacted by the floods," Mr. Giri Nath said.

In addition to Mahalakshmi Layout, the Kendriya Vihar apartment complex in Yelahanka also experienced significant flooding following heavy rainfall on Sunday.

Child dies of suspected food poisoning

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A five-year-old boy died of suspected food poisoning on Monday. Although the child was admitted to a hospital, he did not respond to treatment.

According to the K.P. Agrahara police, who have registered a case of unnatural death, the boy Dhiraj, consumed food cooked on October 2 for Mahalaya Amavasya. He had also eaten cake ordered through a food delivery app. The police said the child's parents, Balraju and Nagalakshmi, who consumed the same food also fell ill and had to be admitted to the ICU.

The police said the cake the family consumed along with their relatives was a cancelled order. The father of the child, Mr. Balraju, who works as a delivery partner, brought the cake home as the customer had cancelled the order, it is learnt.

The police said the relatives who consumed the same cake did not fall ill, but the family which consumed food cooked during Amavasya suffered from food poisoning. The police said they have collected samples of both cake and food made on Amavasya for testing.

KSRTC to add 20 Volvo buses to fleet by month-end

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy visiting the Volvo bus manufacturing factory near Hoskote on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation is set to expand its luxury bus fleet with the addition of 20 new Airavat Club Class 2.0 model Volvo buses by the end of this month. This expansion will further solidify KSRTC's position as one of the leading State transport corporations with the highest number of intercity Volvo buses in India.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy inspected the newly designed buses during a visit to the Volvo manufacturing plant near Hoskote on Monday (Oct. 7). Each bus is priced at ₹1.78 crore. Currently, KSRTC operates 443 luxury buses. "Karnataka is at the forefront of introducing advanced bus models to meet increasing passenger demand and provide quality services. These 20 new buses will be added by the end of the month," said Mr. Reddy.

V. Anbukumar, MD, KSRTC, highlighted the upgraded features of the new buses. "These buses have an aerodynamic design, ensuring better fuel efficiency. They also come with plush interiors and Scandinavian-style exteriors, making them visually appealing," he said.

A few features of the new buses

3.5% longer for increased space between seats	5.6% taller for additional headroom	9.5% wider windshield for improved visibility	20% larger luggage space compared to previous models; Plush interiors and Scandinavian-style exteriors
Safety features, including fire alarm with water nozzles	Improved visibility for drivers to enhance pedestrian safety	Advanced engine technology for better performance	Aerodynamic design for superior fuel efficiency

Source: KSRTC

> These buses have an aerodynamic design, ensuring better fuel efficiency. They come with plush interiors and Scandinavian-style exteriors, making them visually appealing
> **V. ANBUKUMAR**
> MD, KSRTC

The buses are equipped with advanced engine technology that enhances performance and fuel efficiency.

Mr. Anbukumar explained that the new design increases the bus's overall length by 3.5%, allowing for more space between seats and the height by 5.6%, providing additional headroom. The windshield has also been widened by 9.5%, improving driver visibility.

Other features include a 20% larger luggage space and safety enhancements such as the Fire Alarm and Protection System with water pipes and 30 nozzles that spray water in case of fire. Additionally, improved pedestrian visibility for drivers further enhances road safety.

Bitcoin scam: CID arrests Dy.SP rank officer Shridhar Pujar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Special Investigation Team of the Criminal Investigation Department on Monday arrested Shridhar K. Pujar, 47, a Dy.SP rank police officer accused in the bitcoin scam. He has been sent to three-day police custody.

Pujar, who was in the Central Crime Branch when the scam was in the making, had remained elusive from the SIT before the High Court granted him relief. The accused had escaped from the sleuths after a filmi-style chase near Coffee Board Signal.

The SIT had announced a cash reward for finding him.

After he moved the High Court for quashing of FIRs, the court, on May 6, 2024, directed Pujar to appear before the investigating officer on May 8, 2024. It had also quashed a lower court order which declared him as a proclaimed offender.

According to SIT sources, he was arrested on Monday when he appeared before the investigation team.

Sriki, associate kept in illegal custody

It is alleged in the FIR that the then CCB inspector (Narcotics) Pujar, who was probing the drug case, kept hacker Srikrishna Ramesh, aka Sriki (accused number 10), in illegal custody for three days between November 14 and 17, 2020, at a guest house in Central Armed Reserve headquarters on Mysuru Road.

The FIR also said Pujar kept Sriki's associate Robin Khandelwal (accused number 12) in illegal custody for four days in the same place between November 14 and 18, 2020.

According to SIT sources, the illegal custody kept by Pujar resulted in the transfer of bitcoins. Sriki was called as a witness to record his statement.

Saalumarada Thimmakka Botanical Garden to come up in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre on Monday said the foundation stone laying ceremony of the 153-acre Saalumarada Thimmakka Botanical Garden would be held soon.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of Wildlife Week, he said there was a shortage of lung space in North Bengaluru, and 153 acres of forest land at Madappanahalli near Yelahanka RTO would be part of the garden which will be modelled after Cubbon Park.

"The 153-acre forest land had been leased to the Karnataka Forest Development Corp. Ltd.. Now that the lease period has ended, a botanical garden will be created, modelled after Cubbon Park, with CSR funds," he said.

Mr. Khandre said according to the Indian Forest Survey Report, Bengaluru ranks third in terms of urban land area with forests, covering around 89 sq.km. "Bengaluru's tree cover is approximately 6.81%. Over the past 10 years, the city's green cover has decreased by about five square kilometres. To restore Bengaluru's pride as a garden city amidst rapid growth, the forest department needs to undertake more tree-planting programmes with public participation. Besides, forest land encroached upon in the capital must be reclaimed," said Mr. Khandre.

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Pakistani nationals in city: Key suspect held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Jigani police had a breakthrough in the ongoing investigation into two Pakistani families illegally residing in Bengaluru. They arrested a key suspect who is believed to have facilitated their stay in India.

The accused, Pervez Ahmed alias Farvez, was apprehended on Sunday near Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna (KSR) railway station at Majestic. The police said he is confirmed to be a member of Mehdi Foundation International (MFI) in India.

This breakthrough followed the arrest of Rashid Ali Siddiqui, alias Siddakki, also known as Shankar Sharma, 48, along with his wife Ayesha (alias Asha Rani), 38, and her parents Hanif Mohammed (alias Ram Babu Sharma), 73, and Rubina (alias Rani), 61. The family was apprehended at their residence in Rajapura village near Jigani on September 29.

Authorities suspect Pervez of playing a pivotal role in helping the Pakistani nationals acquire Indian identity documents, such as Aadhaar cards, voter IDs, and passports, enabling them to remain in the country unlawfully.

During the investigation, police discovered that Pervez, an Indian national with MFI contacts, had been assisting Pakistani nationals wishing to relocate to India. He reportedly guided them through the process of crossing borders and obtaining forged identification documents.

Rashid, during his interrogation, allegedly revealed that he had initially fled Pakistan after facing attacks by religious leaders for his work as an MFI preacher. He had taken refuge in Bangladesh for three years with his wife and in-laws. When he faced further threats in Bangladesh, Pervez allegedly contacted him and arranged for his illegal entry into India. The family entered the country via West Bengal with the assistance of agents, eventually settling in Delhi with Pervez's help.

They received fake Aadhaar cards, passports, driving licences, and PAN cards, while changing their identities to evade detection. Rashid continued his work as a preacher, promoting religious content on Alra TV. Investigators believe Pervez used his MFI connections to extend similar assistance to others, including another Pakistani family arrested in Bengaluru on October 3. Syed Tariq, alias Chouhan, 53, his wife Anila Tariq (alias Deepali Chouhan), 48, and their 17-year-old daughter were detained in Nelagadaranahalli. Pervez is suspected of helping them get false documentation.

A senior police official confirmed that Pervez is being questioned on the funding and support provided by MFI for Pakistani nationals living illegally in India. Authorities are working to uncover the full extent of the operation.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The global catchment area showing abnormal conditions

50 In per cent. According to a UN weather agency report, river flows worldwide fell to all-time lows last year amid record heat, endangering water supplies in an era of growing demand. REUTERS

The death toll from the floods, landslides in Meghalaya

15 At least 15 people have been killed in floods and landslides triggered by heavy rainfall in the northeastern State over the last four days. 17,000 people from about 165 villages have been shifted to relief camps. REUTERS

The U.S. military aid sent to Israel since October 7, 2023

17.9 In billion dollars. According to Brown University's Costs of War project, an additional $4.86 billion has gone into U.S. military operations in the region since the October 7 attacks. AP

The World Bank Loan secured by Sri Lanka to bolster recovery

200 In million dollars. The country's leftist government secured a new loan to bolster economic recovery, the first foreign funding since President Anura Kumara Dissanayake won elections. AFP

The increase in the storage of India's water reservoirs

18 In per cent. The country's water reservoirs are experiencing a significant boost in live storage with 155 of them across the country currently at 88% of their total capacity. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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On 'casteist' provisions in prison manuals

How do existing prison manuals reinforce colonial-era caste-based discrimination? How do they contravene Article 14 of the Constitution? Why did the Supreme Court flag the Union government's 2016 Model Prison Manual? What does the verdict say? What happens next?

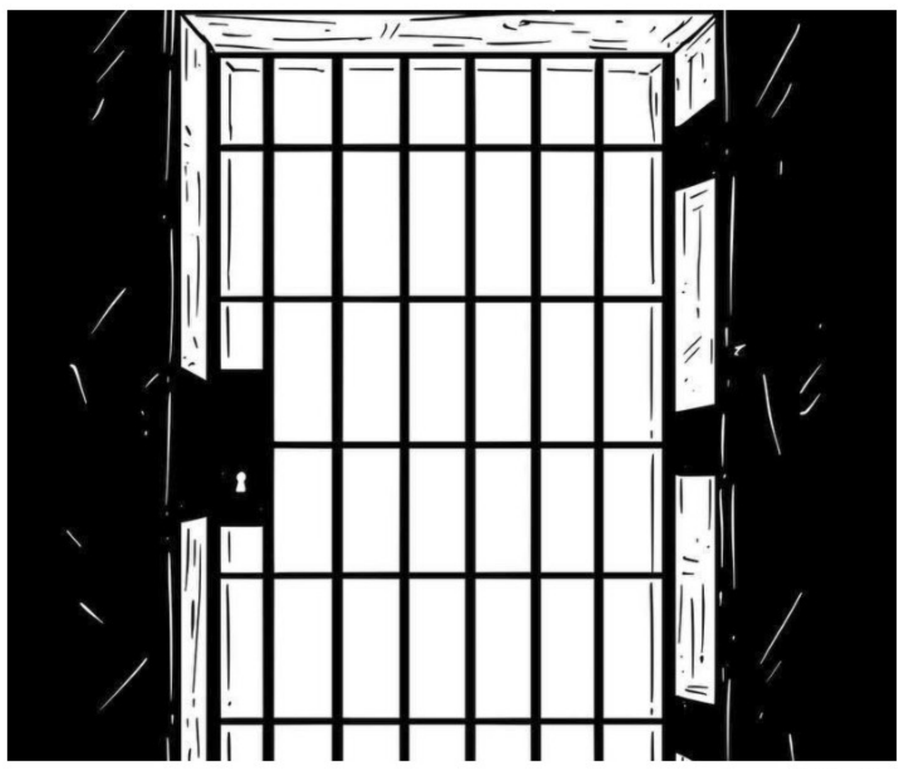
EXPLAINER

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:
The Supreme Court on October 3 declared that caste-based division of labour in prisons is "unconstitutional". A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud struck down several provisions in State prison manuals, that reinforced caste differences, for being violative of the fundamental rights of prisoners.

What was the case?
The court was hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petition filed by journalist Sukanya Shantha highlighting provisions in prison manuals in States such as Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala that legitimised caste inequalities. For instance, it was pointed out that the separation of Thevars, Nadars, and Pallars in different sections of the Palayamkottai Central Jail in Tamil Nadu constituted a "glaring instance of caste-based segregation of barracks". Similarly, the Rajasthan Prison Rules, 1951, allocated latrine duties to the "Mehtar" caste – a Scheduled Caste community – while Brahmins or "sufficiently high caste Hindu prisoners" were assigned to the kitchens, thereby perpetuating caste-based labour divisions.

How do prison manuals reinforce colonial stereotypes?
The now-repealed Criminal Tribes Act, 1871, permitted the British colonial regime to designate certain marginalised communities as "criminal tribes" based on the stereotypical notion that they were "born criminals." Following the revocation of the Act, these groups were reclassified as "denotified tribes" yet prison manuals continued to label them as "habitual offenders" sans any conviction. The court noted that such



GETTY IMAGES

classification perpetuates colonial-era caste-based discrimination, exacerbating the social and economic marginalisation of these communities.

Citing examples from various prison manuals, the court highlighted that Rule 404 of the West Bengal Jail Code stipulates that a convict overseer may be appointed as a night guard only if "he does not belong to any class that may have a strong natural tendency to escape, such as men of wandering tribes." Similarly, prison manuals in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala define "habitual criminals" as individuals who, by "habit," are "robbers, housebreakers, dacoits, thieves, or receivers of stolen property" or who "habitually commit extortion, cheating, counterfeiting coins, currency notes, stamps, or forgery," even in the absence of any prior convictions. Further, the rules in Andhra Pradesh equate "a member of a wandering or criminal tribe" with "a bad or dangerous character, or one who has ever escaped or attempted to escape from lawful custody," prohibiting their employment in any labour outside the prison walls.

How are fundamental rights of prisoners violated?
Underscoring that caste may be employed as a criterion for classification only when it seeks to benefit victims of caste discrimination, the top court ruled that the prison manuals failed to achieve this objective and instead contravened Article 14 of the Constitution. "Segregating prisoners on the basis of caste would reinforce caste differences or animosity that ought to be prevented in the first place", it reasoned. The judges further opined that differentiating between inmates based on "habit," "custom," "superior mode of living," and "natural tendency to escape" offends principles of substantive equality.

"By assigning cleaning and sweeping work to the marginalised castes, while allowing the high castes to do cooking, the Manuals directly discriminate. This is an instance of direct discrimination under Article 15(1)", the Bench asserted. Furthermore, assigning specific tasks to these communities based on their purported "customary" roles, rather than offering "more skilled, dignified, or intellectual work," was deemed to result in indirect discrimination.

Referring to prison rules that require food to be cooked by members of a "suitable caste" or "menial duties" to be exclusively performed by communities "accustomed" to such work, the court noted that these practices constituted untouchability, prohibited under Article 17. "When Prison Manuals restrict the reformation of prisoners from marginalised communities, they violate their right to life. At the same time, such provisions deprive prisoners from marginalised groups of a sense of dignity and the expectation that they should be treated equally", the CJI underscored.

What were the directions issued?
All States and Union Territories were directed to amend their prison manuals and rules within three months to abolish such discriminatory practices.

Several lacunas were also flagged in the Union government's Model Prison Manual, 2016, and the Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2023. The 2016 manual, in particular, faced criticism for offering a vague definition of "habitual offender", allowing States to define the term based on stereotypical assumptions against denotified tribes. Consequently, the court ordered that necessary reforms be implemented in both the 2016 manual and the 2023 Act within three months. To ensure compliance with these directives, district legal services authorities and boards of visitors were tasked with conducting regular inspections.

THE GIST

- The court was hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petition filed by journalist Sukanya Shantha highlighting provisions in prison manuals in States such as Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala that legitimised caste inequalities.
- Citing examples from various prison manuals, the court highlighted that Rule 404 of the West Bengal Jail Code stipulates that a convict overseer may be appointed as a night guard only if "he does not belong to any class that may have a strong natural tendency to escape, such as men of wandering tribes."
- All States and Union Territories were directed to amend their prison manuals and rules within three months to abolish such discriminatory practices.

On the need for a different framework for passive MFs

Why has SEBI relaxed requirements for asset management companies with respect to passive mutual funds?

Saptaparno Ghosh

The story so far:
The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on September 30, introduced the liberalised Mutual Funds Lite (MF Lite) framework for passively managed schemes. The framework intends to promote the entry of new players into the MF ecosystem, present diversified investment opportunities for retail investors through less risky schemes and enhance market liquidity.

Why a separate framework?
Passively managed mutual fund schemes are generally considered less risky compared to their actively managed peers. They usually track a benchmark index, say BSE Sensex or Nifty50, and try to mimic their performance. In other words, these funds try and deliver returns in tandem with the benchmark they are following. Since the underlying constituents of the benchmark indices are publicly available, passively managed schemes can be easily tracked and therefore, the associated risks are lower in comparison to their active peers.

SEBI observed that passive funds' investment strategy imbibes on mimicking instruments already bearing established rules. Asset management companies (AMCs) of the fund, thus have "negligible discretion" about asset allocation and the investment objective. Thus, the regulator held that the current framework, intended primarily for active mutual fund operators, may not be relevant for passively managed schemes. Thus, opting to introduce the "relaxed framework". The light touch regulations would include relaxed requirements relating to eligibility criteria for sponsors (the ones who set up and register the mutual fund) including net worth, track record and profitability etc.

How does it help new players' entry?
This would be encouraged by two measures – governance structures (and responsibilities) and requirements for net worth holdings. Net worth is the difference between the assets and liabilities of the fund. The framework deems a minimum net worth of ₹35 crore to be appropriate for AMCs operating a passive fund. Emphasising on the need for liquid money, the regulator observed that the fund may require to deploy the entire amount of the net worth in liquid assets on a perpetual basis. Thus, a lower minimum requirement could provide the "desired head start for a cost effective and competitive passive MF industry". According to stockbroking firm AngelOne, the framework would likely attract both existing and new market players.

Further, with respect to governance, SEBI explored that in management of passive funds, the oversight role of trustees (tasked with protecting the investors' interest) also gets considerably reduced. Thus, a case for relaxation. However, it stipulated that the role of trustees in averting conflict of interest and overseeing related party transactions, undue influence of sponsors, misconduct including market abuse and misuse of information including front running would still be relevant along with AMCs. Important to note here however, that certain oversight measures relating to daily operations would now be entirely with the board of the AMC, the paper held. For example, ensuring fairness in fees and expenses charged and more importantly, maintaining the tracking error and difference within the regulatory limit.

What about risks and disclosures?
The success of a passively managed scheme is subject to two factors, namely, TER (refers to the costs associated with running and managing a scheme) and tracking error. Thus, the latest framework moves away from metrics such as strategy and investment avenues, among other things. These would not form part of the scheme information document (SID) that contains all the relevant information for a prospective retail investor. SEBI however sought that the prospective investor be informed about the name of the underlying benchmark, among other things, in the SID. SEBI's consultation paper had also concentrated focus on costs for compliance considering the lowered risks.

It provided that the responsibilities of the risk management committee(s), being limited in the paradigm, could be instead additionally carried out by the audit committee of the AMC.

THE GIST

- Passively managed mutual fund schemes are generally considered less risky compared to their actively managed peers. They usually track a benchmark index, say BSE Sensex or Nifty50, and try to mimic their performance.
- The framework deems a minimum net worth of ₹35 crore to be appropriate for AMCs operating a passive fund.
- The success of a passively managed scheme is subject to two factors, namely, TER (refers to the costs associated with running and managing a scheme) and tracking error.

Caste census report likely to be placed before State Cabinet on October 18

Siddaramaiah says the census is not just of OBCs but of all Kannadigas, and the govt. will abide by any decision taken by the State Cabinet

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Moving a step ahead on the Socio-Economic-Educational Census, popularly known as caste census, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced that the report is likely to be placed before the State Cabinet on October 18 to take a call on its implementation.

"Most likely, the caste census report will be placed before the State Cabinet during its meeting on October 18. We will abide by whatever the Cabinet decides," the Chief Minister told mediapersons after meeting Ministers and legislators from other backward communities (OBC) on on Monday.

"I met over 30 legislators and Ministers from OBC communities today, including BJP legislator N. Ravi Kumar. All of them have given me a memorandum seeking that the government accept the caste census report and implement it," he said. He clarified that the caste census was not a census of just OBCs but that of 'all the seven crore Kannadigas'.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at a meeting in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Chief Minister stated that he had commissioned such a census for the first time in India during his earlier stint as Chief Minister (2013-18) through the Karnataka Backward Classes Commission, headed by H. Kantharaj. "The commission chairman said the census had been conducted through door-to-door visits of all households," he said.

Referring to questions raised by the Opposition on why the census report was not implemented during his earlier stint, Mr. Siddaramaiah said it hadn't been submitted at that time.

He alleged that the Janata Dal (S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy, who succeeded him as Chief Minister in the JD(S)-Congress coalition government, had refused to accept the report. The subsequent BJP government too desisted from accepting it, the Chief Minister claimed.

"Later, when I became Chief Minister again, the term of Mr. Kantharaj was over. Jayaprakash Hegde was appointed chairman of the backward classes commission. Mr. Hegde sought three months' to complete the report. The report was submitted to the government, but I am yet to read it," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

Voices of dissent

When his attention was drawn to opposition [to the report] by some Congress leaders, including former MP D.K. Suresh, the Chief Minister said: "The Cabinet will take a call on the report."

The BJP and JD(S) have opposed implementation of the caste census report on the grounds that it was obsolete as it was conducted about 10 years ago, and that it had 'not been conducted scientifically'.

They have accused the Chief Minister of trying to highlight the caste census report now only to divert public attention from the probe being ordered against him in connection with alleged irregularities in allotment of sites by MUDA to his wife.

Ravi Kumar: We will take a stand after studying report

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

N. Ravi Kumar, BJP MLC, who was the only legislator from the Opposition camp to attend the meeting convened by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on the caste census, told *The Hindu* that his party would decide its stand after studying the contents of the report once it was made public.

He said there was no opposition from the BJP to the idea of ensuring social justice to backward communities. However, the party would decide whether the report had arrived at scientific conclusions.

"On behalf of the party, I have requested the Chief Minister to clarify whether the report is scientific or not, as some of the Congress leaders themselves have voiced concerns. We have also sought details such as whether the report would provide reservation to OBC communities and its findings on which communities have received the least benefits," he said.

D.K. Suresh-Jarkiholi meet triggers speculation

State BJP president B.Y. Vijayendra with Minister for Public Works Satish Jarkiholi in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

D.K. Suresh, former MP, on Monday met Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi at his official residence here, triggering speculations. Mr. Suresh, however, claimed that he had met the Minister to discuss development issues related to Kanakapura.

Earlier in the day, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra too called on Mr. Jarkiholi with party leaders from Shivamogga. He said the meeting was to discuss road projects related to Shivamogga.

Meet with Kharge

Mr. Jarkiholi, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's close aide, had recently met AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge in Delhi and Home Minister G. Parameshwara in Tumakuru. His meetings had triggered speculations at a time when the Opposition is demanding the resignation of the Chief Minister who is facing a probe in connection with alleged irregularities in allotment of sites by MUDA to his wife.

In this context, Mr. Suresh's meeting with Mr. Jarkiholi has raised curiosity in political circles. On his part, Mr. Suresh maintained that there was no need to read too much into his meeting.

"Mr. Jarkiholi is our party leader and an influential Minister. How can the meeting with him be unusual? You can read between the lines if our leaders are meeting Opposition leaders. When we meet our own party leaders, we discuss party affairs and development works," Mr. Suresh told mediapersons after the meeting. "We discussed development works in Kanakapura."

Asked about his brother and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar meeting Mr. Kharge, he said, "Mr. Kharge is our national president. As KPCC president, it is his [Mr. Shivakumar's] job to meet him and discuss party affairs."

Asked if there was any discussion about the change of guard in the State, he said, "Mr. Siddaramaiah will complete his term. The MUDA case is in court and the investigation is on as per court orders. Mr. Siddaramaiah will come out clean in this case."

'ED can't arrest CM'

Asked about the need for choosing an alternative leader in case the Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested Mr. Siddaramaiah, he said: "The ED can't arrest him. There is no money involved in the case. Moreover, the sites have been returned to MUDA."

Caste census report: Congress leaders doing a drama, alleges HDK

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Accusing the government in the State of trying to divert public attention from the alleged scam in MUDA by bringing the caste census to the forefront, Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy challenged the Congress to seek a fresh mandate to implement the report in the State.

Speaking to mediapersons here on Monday, Mr. Kumaraswamy described the statements being made by Congress leaders seeking implementation of caste census report as a "drama" to divert attention from the probe against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah over the alleged irregularities in allotment of sites by MUDA to his wife. "It is also an attempt to cover up the anguish among people about lack of infrastructure development," he alleged.

'It's old now'

Pointing out that the Kantharaj Commission had been formed 10 years ago to prepare the caste census report, Mr. Kumaraswamy argued that the census had become old now, and several new developments had taken place ever since the census was conducted. He questioned the government for not releasing the census report earlier.

Referring to the allegations by the Congress that he had not allowed them to release the report when he was the Chief Minister during the JD(S)-Congress coalition government, Mr. Kumaraswamy questioned the present Congress government for not releasing the report in the last one year, especially before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

"The report will not benefit any community as it is too old. It is being highlighted only to suppress the alleged MUDA scam," he charged.

Referring to Congress leader B. K. Hariprasad statement that the report should be implemented even if it meant losing power, Mr. Kumaraswamy said: "Instead, the Congress government should dissolve the Assembly and go for fresh polls on the issue of caste census if their concern is genuine."

'Complete recruitment to 34,863 posts in a time-bound manner'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday directed the authorities concerned to complete the process of filling 34,863 vacancies in various departments in a time-bound manner.

Chairing a meeting to review the process of filling vacancies in various departments, he asked the authorities to prioritise the exercise in essential services sectors.

He asked the HoDs to prepare an annual calendar for recruitments by getting permission from the Finance Department. He even suggested that the officials visit Kerala to study its model of recruitments.

Mr. Siddaramaiah suggested preparing a Model Cadre and Recruitment Rules while pointing out that the need for amending these rules was delaying the recruitment process in 41 departments.

He asked the authorities to bring about reforms in the recruitment process and implement a uniform recruitment system on the lines of the one adopted by the UPSC. He said the UPSC was looking into recruitments for only Group A & B posts. Similarly, there was a debate on whether the KPSC should look into recruitments for Group A & B posts while allowing the Karnataka Examinations Authority to take up recruitments for other posts, he said.

'Walk for Quality' organised

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bureau of Indian Standards, Bengaluru, on Sunday organised 'Walk for Quality' as a precursor event to the upcoming World Standards Day 2024 celebrations. The 3-km walk was aimed at raising awareness about the importance of quality standards in daily life and encouraging the adoption of Indian Standards.

As many as 480 individuals, including representatives from Air Force Station, Jalahalli, Indian Army, Traffic Wardens Organisation, Karnataka Small Scale Industry Association, Standards Engineers Institute, UVCE, BMS Institute of Technology, academicians and students from various Standards Clubs, took part.

Murugha Mutt seer released

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

With the trial court completing the examination of the witnesses of fact in the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru who was in judicial custody, was released on bail from prison on Monday.

In the POCSO case against the seer for alleged sexual harassment of two minor girls, the Karnataka-High Court had granted bail to the seer on November 8, 2023.

However, after he was released from prison, his bail was questioned in the Supreme Court and a Division Bench, comprising of Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra, had stayed the impugned order in April 2024.

The Division Bench had only stayed the impugned order for a period of four months from the date of order and had asked the accused to surrender before the trial court, which he did. In its order, the Division Bench directed the trial court to ensure that witnesses of fact were examined within four months.

Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru FILE PHOTO

Counsel for Murugha Sharanaru, Vishwanathaiah, told presspersons that as the examination of evidences pertaining to two victims and 13 evidences had been completed, the Supreme Court stay on the bail granted by the High Court of Karnataka had been vacated.

Consequently, the Second Additional District and Civil Court Judge Gangadhar Channabasappa Hadapad ordered the release of the seer, he said. Subsequently, the seer was released from Chitradurga prison where he was lodged and scores of devotees welcomed him with garlands.

Charges against seer

Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru is facing charges of sexually exploiting two minor girls and violating the provisions of SC/ ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

The case of sexually exploiting two minor girls was first filed against the seer at Nazarbad police station in Mysuru on August 26, 2022, and was transferred to the Chitradurga Rural police station on August 27. The seer was at the Brihan Mutt in Chitradurga when he was arrested on September 1.

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF II ADDITIONAL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT TUMKUR
P & SC No. 17/2024
BETWEEN: Mr. CHANNAGANGAPPA.E, S/o. Late Erannaiah, aged about 64 years, Residing at No.226, 1st Cross, BSK 3rd stage, Bangalore- 560085 ...PETITIONER
AND: Mrs. JAYALAKSHMAMMA And others ... RESPONDENT
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 (1-A) OF CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE
1. Mrs. JAYALAKSHMAMMA, W/o. Late RJ Thimmaiah, aged about 73 years, 2. Mr. RAGHU, S/o. late R.J. Thimmaiah aged about 42 years, 3. Mr. R.D. LAKSHMIPATHI, S/o. Late R.J. Thimmaiah, aged about 40 years, 4. Mrs. R.T. BHAGYA, D/o. Late R.J. Thimmaiah, aged about 44 years, All are residing at Rangegowdanapalya, Yediyur Hobli, Kunigal Taluk, Tumkur District
NOTICE
WHEREAS the Plaintiff above named has filed a petition under Section 372 of Indian Succession Act, to obtain Succession certificate. Hence, you are hereby called upon to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person on 08-11-2024 at 11.00 AM failing which the matter will be heard and will be disposed off ex-parte against you.
Given under my hand seal of the Court on this 07-10-2024.
By order of the Court, Chief Ministerial Officer, District and Sessions Court, Tumkuru- 572 101.
Advocate for Petitioner:
A. FEROZE NIZAM
No.113, 1st Floor, 34th Cross
BSK 2nd Stage, Bangalore -560 070.

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL , KOPPAL
No:CMC/15th Finance & CMC Fund/ 2024-25/771 Date : 03-10-2024
Tender Notification
Koppal City under Commissioner CMC koppal state Governor behalf of Transparency public storage act 2000 and KW-4, rule, works Karnataka state government e-procurement portal in https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in PWD Registers Contractor to Tender invite. Tender form Rate and EMD cost Specified in e-procurement portal. Name of Work: 15th Finance & CMC Fund Grant. (1) DMA/2024-25/WT/WORK_INDENT29791. Estimate Cost (In lakh) : 380.39. EMD Cost (in Rs) : 570585.00. Class of Eligibal Contractor : "Class-1 & Above". Conditions: (1) Period of tender document download in govt e-procurement on-line apply last date.16-10-2024 evening 4.30 PM. (2) Technical bid open date 18-10-2024 Morning 10:30 AM. (3) Financial bid open date : 21-10-2024 Morning 10:30 AM or bid open date after published. (4) Similar Nature of work done Submitted as Per KW-4 Releted Works. (5) Tender Conditions and rules office hours technical dept or (https://www.koppalcity.mrc.gov.in) downlod the information in website. (6) work complition period 6 months (Including Rainig Season).(7) Tender rejecting autority CMC Office. (8) For More information contact to state govt e-procurement portal website(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)
Sd/- Municipal Commissioner
CMC Koppal
DIPR/Koppal/461/DeshpandePublicity/2024-25

Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF MINES & GEOLOGY
#49, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560001
E-mail: dir-mines@karnataka.gov.in
No.DMG-17012/17/2024/2024-25 Date: 07.10.2024
C No: 1476225
NOTIFICATION AND NOTICE INVITING TENDER
"Invitation of bids for grant of Mining Lease for iron ore mine (Expired Lease)"
In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 10(B) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015 and the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 and amendments notified thereunder, the Government of Karnataka is conducting the auction for one iron ore mine (expired lease) for grant of Mining Lease and hereby invites tender through electronic auction.

S. No.	Name of the mine/ block	Mineral	Concession Area (in Ha)	Estimated resources (in MMT)
1.	Shanthipriya Iron Ore Mine	Iron ore	80.43	3.65

Additional Information: The Erstwhile lessee i.e Shanthipriya Minerals Pvt Ltd has filed SLP No. 9890/2020 before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The auction process for this mine shall be subject to the outcome of the court order in the petition.
Technical and financial bids for the above listed mine is invited online. Apart from the online Technical Bids, bidders will have to submit duly executed original physical copies of their Technical Bids to the Tender Inviting Authority i.e. Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Karnataka.
Eligibility conditions, terms and conditions, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. Tender Documents, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process shall be available in electronic form only at the website of MSTC Ltd (https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcln/mlcl_listing.jsp). Interested and eligible bidders can register themselves at the above website. On successful registration, bidders will obtain login ID and password, which are necessary for participation in the e-auction process. Model Tender Document and summary of the mine shall be available free of cost the at website of MSTC Limited (https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcin/mlcl listing.jsp).
For participating in the bidding process, the registered bidders will have to purchase the mine specific tender document at the website of MSTC Ltd by paying Rs 5,00,000/- (Rs. Five Lakhs Only) + GST.
The GST at the rate of 18% on the purchase of tender document shall be applicable. The GST applicable is to be paid by the prospective bidder itself under the Reverse Charge Mechanism. The prospective bidder shall be solely responsible for remitting the GST as per applicable law and statutory liability in this regard will be responsibility of prospective bidder and no liability whatsoever shall be borne by the DMG Karnataka /MSTC.
The sale of tender document shall commence from 08th October 2024. Last date for sale of tender document at the website of MSTC Ltd is 20th November 2024. Last date for submission of Technical Bids plus the Initial Price Offers at the website of MSTC Ltd is 17:00 hours IST on 21st November 2024. Physical copies of the Technical Bids must reach the Tender Inviting Authority i.e. Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Karnataka on or prior to 17:00 hours IST on 21st November 2024.
Sd/-
Director
DIPR/CP/2405/Zen/2024-25

BUILDING BLOCKS

GETTY IMAGES

How high-performance buildings are the next step towards a sustainable future

As urbanisation accelerates, India risks surpassing global benchmarks for energy efficiency and carbon emissions in buildings. In such a scenario, HPBs offer resilience through adaptive, self-sufficient structures. They promote social well-being by nurturing healthier indoor environments

Sandhya Patil

The conversation around sustainability in the buildings sector has often centred on climate change, resource use, and energy efficiency. Buildings are significant contributors to global emissions, especially in fast-growing cities, so improving their energy and carbon efficiency is vital. Failing to act could result in higher energy consumption, greater dependence on fossil fuels, and missed climate targets, all of which will further strain urban infrastructure.

Globally, buildings account for nearly 40% of total final energy consumption over their lifespan, primarily for operational needs such as running HVAC systems and lighting.

This significant energy use leads to approximately 28% of energy-related carbon emissions arising from both on-site energy consumption and indirect emissions from power plants and other off-site sources. In India, buildings account for more than 30% of the national energy use and 20% of its carbon emissions, according to the Bureau of Energy Efficiency.

As urbanisation accelerates, India risks surpassing global benchmarks for energy efficiency and carbon emissions in buildings, including standards set by the International Energy Agency, building certification programmes, and the European Union's Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.

With India's urban population expected to reach 600 million by 2030, this challenge is becoming even more urgent. As cities grow, the demand for new construction also increases, and without action the sector's carbon footprint will increase drastically.

Adopting energy-efficient and low-carbon building practices is thus key to meet climate goals and to promote sustainable urban growth.

What are high-performance buildings?

Terms like "green buildings" and "high-performance buildings" (HPBs) are often used interchangeably in the field of sustainable construction. Both concepts aim to reduce environmental impact and energy consumption and improve occupant comfort, but differ significantly in their methods and outcomes.

Green buildings are often seen as a foundational step toward sustainable development, with certification programmes playing a crucial role in their creation. These programmes assess the design intent and the final outcomes across various categories, using established benchmarks to ensure the builder is meeting essential sustainability goals. Their key areas of concern are energy efficiency, water conservation, and materials sourcing.

HPBs elevate these ideas by striving for peak efficiency in every aspect of their form and function. From energy and water use to occupant health and comfort, HPBs are designed with specific, measurable goals to achieve results beyond what the local government requires. They use advanced technologies and smart design strategies to continuously track their performance metrics, ideally in real-time. Specifically, HPBs leverage site-specific design approaches, such as natural lighting, ventilation, and terrain water management using sustainable materials, insulation, and low U-value windows to maximise thermal efficiency and reduce energy demand.

Advanced technologies include energy-efficient HVAC systems, greywater recycling, rainwater harvesting, smart lighting controls, and advanced metering. A 'building management system' (BMS) allows operators to monitor an HPB's performance, including sharing real-time analytics to optimise resource use.

Some HPBs already exist in India. One notable example is Unnati in Greater Noida, which features a façade designed according to the Sun's path in the local sky to improve thermal comfort and reduce glare. This is complemented by high-performance glass with a low solar heat gain coefficient, which improves energy efficiency and indoor environmental quality.

Similarly, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan in New Delhi utilises an advanced HVAC system featuring a unit where chilled water circulates through beams in the ceiling, taking advantage of natural convection and reducing energy consumption.

These building designs have paved the way for net-zero buildings (structures that generate as much energy and water as they consume) and grid-interactive buildings, which actively participate in energy demand management. Both push the boundaries of sustainability.

Benefits of HPBs

HPBs offer environmental benefits and address long-term operational challenges that building owners and occupants often face. Rather than focusing solely on saving energy, HPBs create a holistic environment where technology, design, and sustainability intersect to enhance building performance.

For example, their use of smart systems to dynamically manage resource use ensures building systems last longer and don't need frequent upgrades. The Infosys campus in Bengaluru has a facility that monitors the entire building's performance using a BMS and makes the requisite changes as and when to maintain peak performance. These buildings often achieve higher returns on investment due to higher property value and lower maintenance costs. Similar examples include the Atal Akshay Urja Bhavan in New Delhi and the Infosys campus in Hyderabad.

HPBs that take advantage of automation and artificial intelligence in addition to existing features can even create intelligent ecosystems. For example, computers in buildings can adjust lighting, temperature, and ventilation based on occupancy patterns or weather conditions to create a more personalised, energy-efficient milieu.

From a market perspective, HPBs are becoming a symbol of forward-thinking development. Beyond their immediate benefits, they signal a shift toward buildings that prioritise the well-being of occupants with superior air filtration systems, maximal natural light, and optimal thermal comfort.

How can HPBs help India's cities?

Life in India is guided by resource scarcity, fluctuating energy markets, and rising temperatures. HPBs offer resilience through adaptive, self-sufficient structures. They promote social well-being by nurturing healthier indoor environments, including air quality.

For example, TCS Banyan Park in Mumbai incorporates extensive green spaces and water features and its daytime lighting strategy includes well-placed windows and skylights to reduce artificial lighting. Such projects consume fewer resources while elevating the quality of the workplace.

For India, where rapid urbanisation can and does strain public infrastructure, HPBs offer a proactive solution that positions the built environment as a driver of the country's transition to a low-carbon, more sustainable economy. In sum, in a rapidly changing real-estate landscape, where adaptability is key, HPBs stand out as future-proof investments capable of weathering evolving environmental and economic pressures while delivering value.

Sandhya Patil is a sustainability expert with the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) and anchors technical assistance for ASSURE. The author does not have any financial interests vested with any company or organisation that would benefit from this article.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
Upendran

"Sorry I'm late, but.. "

"That's a jazzy shirt you're wearing."

"Jazzy? What does it mean?"

"Take a look at your shirt. And then, you tell me what you think 'jazzy' means."

"O.K. Let's see now. The shirt I'm wearing is bright green. It has all kinds of colourful flowers printed on it "

"Pink, blue, orange, purple...."

"... and white. It is colourful and it is also... Hey..wait a minute. Does 'jazzy' mean bright, colourful? So can I say the heroes in films wear jazzy suits?"

"Yes, you can, but..."

"And the villain usually drives a jazzy sports car!"

"Don't get carried away. You have to be careful when you use this word. You see, when you say that something is jazzy, you mean that though the object is bright and colourful, you yourself don't particularly care for it. You don't like the object because you think it is too flashy."

"So the word 'jazzy' has a negative connotation?"

"Yes, it does. So be very careful. Now tell me, why are you late?"

"I went to see the old museum and.."

"They've really jazzed it up, haven't they?"

"Jazzed it up?"

" 'Jazz up' means to make something interesting, colourful or exciting. The new editor tried to jazz up the magazine."

"We need good music and good food to jazz up a party."

"I agree with you 100 per cent. What did you like in the museum?"

"Nothing."

"What?"

"You see, I never got a chance to go inside. As I was climbing the steps, I bumped into Raju."

"Raju! I thought he'd gone to Delhi."

"He came back the day before. He told me about all the places he had seen – the Red Fort, the Qutab Minar, Raj Ghat...."

"And all that jazz."

"Oh no! Not another expression with the word jazz in it! What have you been doing? Listening to a lot of jazz music?"

"No. By the way the 'a' in jazz is pronounced, like the 'a' in 'man', 'fan'. "

"I see, tell me what 'and all that jazz' means."

"I'll use the expression in a sentence and you tell me what it means. The new captain talked about the need for hard work, discipline and all that jazz."

"Hmm. You know, sometimes when we don't want to go into great detail about something, we complete the sentence very abruptly by saying 'etc., etc.' The expression 'and all that jazz' seems to be doing the same thing."

"Excellent. When we use the expression 'and all that jazz,' we expect the listener to fill in the details. We don't want to go into the details because they are not that important. So if somebody asks you what you saw at the beach, you could say 'sand..."

"Shells, crabs, people and all that jazz. Hey, what are you doing?"

"Cleaning up the room."

Published in The Hindu on August 10, 1993.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Jammu and Kashmir is awaiting the results of its first Assembly election in a decade. Here is a quiz on the legislature of the erstwhile State

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

QUESTION 1
In which year did the post of Chief Minister come into existence in the erstwhile State? Which post did it replace?

QUESTION 2
Who was the first Chief Minister of the erstwhile State, who was also the last person to hold the preceding post?

QUESTION 3
What was the first general election in post-independence Jammu and kashmir?

QUESTION 4
Mehbooba Mufti is the first woman to be Chief Minister in the erstwhile State. Who is the first woman to be a Cabinet Minister in Jammu and Kashmir?

QUESTION 5
How many seats are reserved for Pakistan-occupied regions in Kashmir, which are currently left vacant and not contested for?

QUESTION 6
How many times was the Governor's rule imposed, suspending the elected Assembly in Jammu and Kashmir while it was a State?

Visual question: Identify the person on the left. His family has been prominent in the erstwhile State's legislative history.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Mithun's first released film and the legendary director who made it. **Ans: *Mrigaya* and Mrinal Sen**
2. The film that fans identify him most with. **Ans: *Disco Dancer***
3. The Indian mystic Mithun essayed for the National Award. **Ans: Ramakrishna Paramahamsa in *Swami Vivekananda***
4. Name the chain of hotels that Mithun owns in places like Ooty. **Ans: Monarch**
5. This African country issued a stamp in his honour in 2010. **Ans: Guinea-Bissau**
6. The character which was based on Mithun in this 2008 comic book. **Ans: Jimmy Zhingchak - Agent of D.I.S.C.O.**
7. Mithun turned down the offer to play the lead in this Mani Ratnam film. **Ans: *Iruvar***
Visual: This party nominated him to the Rajya Sabha in 2014. **Ans: All India Trinamool Congress**
Early Birds: Tamal Biswas| Tito Shiladitya| Rajib Ganguly| Piyali Tuli| Sumana Dutta

Word of the day

Berate:
censure severely or angrily

Synonyms: trounce, lambaste, dress down, scold, take to task, rebuke, remonstrate, reprimand, lecture, chide

Usage: *He has often berated him about his lack of vision.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/beratepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /bɪˈɹeɪt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Exploring the secret lives of ancient monuments

Two decades spent exploring archaeological sites have played a role in inspiring Srikumar M. Menon's book *God on the Hill & Other Stories*. The stories draw from the locales, monuments, and myths associated with many ancient monuments

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

A monument at Kanaganahalli. SRIKUMAR MENON

A love for astronomy drew Srikumar M. Menon to megaliths, stone structures erected by ancient people in the Neolithic and Chalcolithic periods, continuing through the Iron Age and Early Historic period. "I was fascinated by stories of Stonehenge and its claims of astronomical connections," says Menon in an interview following a recent event titled *The Secret Life of Monuments* held at the Bangalore International Center.

He did not know there were similar structures in India until he discovered a research paper about Indian megaliths and their connection to astronomy, recalls the architect associated with Bengaluru's National Institute of Advanced Studies. So he began visiting some of these megalithic sites, even going on to do his PhD on the astronomical significance of megalithic monuments in India.

"I have been walking around in many of these sites for the last 20 years," he tells Vinay Parameswarappa, the founder of experiential tour company Gully Tours, with whom he was in conversation with at the event.

Inspiration for book

These two decades spent exploring these various places inspired his book, *God on the Hill & Other Stories,* published earlier this year. The collection of 10 short stories draws from the locales, monuments and myths associated with many of the ancient monuments he studied, including megaliths in Kerala and Karnataka, a Buddhist stupa in Karnataka, and an exquisite little rock-cut temple in the Kumaon Himalaya. "Wherever I go to any historical site, there are usually stories there that do not have a direct impact on academic research. But they are important because people nearby believe it or that sort of thing," says Menon.

He says the book, an atonement of sorts for all the legends and myths he has ignored or busted, took nearly 15 years to write. "The oldest story in this is probably started in 2005 or something like that, so it has been a while in the making," he says. "I didn't conceive of it as a book when I started. I was just writing a story whenever I felt like it."

Megalithic monuments

"I've been incredibly lucky that I get to see some out-of-the-way spots, and I'll have tried to capture the essence of some of these places," says Menon before taking his audience at the event to the settings of some of these stories, using a series of stunning photographs.

Three stories in the book are set in megalithic sites, which can range from menhirs (upright stones), dolmens (burial chambers), cairn circles (circular stone arrangements) and burial cists (underground stone enclosures), among others. "They have something to do with death," says Menon, pointing out that they are often burial sites or structures set up to commemorate a person or spot of some importance. He adds that the origins and significance of some, such as the various stone alignments, are still a mystery.

Sites in Karnataka

A few of the sites in India that Menon refers to include the dolmens of Malachandram, 75-odd km from Bengaluru near Krishnagiri; Hire Benakal near Hampi, one of the largest and most diverse megalithic sites of South India; and the menhirs of Heragal and Nilaskal in the Hosanagara taluk.

He delves into the stories and local legends around these historical sites, many of which have shaped his short stories. For instance, Hire Benakal is locally known as 'Moriyara Mane' or house of the Moriyas, a mythical race of "small people who lived long ago that were endowed with superhuman strength," he says. "They could split the stones with their bare hands, and they (are believed to have) made these structures."

He also ventures into the function of a hero stone or veeragallu, stone monuments commemorating the valorous death of a hero, be it in battle or while defending people and cattle from predators like tigers. Sharing a photograph of a veeragallu on the Indian Institute of Science campus that portrays a hunter shooting a tiger, he says it celebrates a person who possibly lost his life battling the animal. "There are stone slabs nearby which suggest that it was enclosed in a small kind of shrine made of other stones," he believes.

These ancient sites are also important from an architectural and social perspective, in his opinion. "They look so crude and primitive, but the thing is that the seeds of much of later architecture are sown in these," he says. "This is when they learned stone working... using stone slabs from the bedrock... learning how to shape and erect them."

Additionally, ancient megaliths offer valuable insights into the people and societies who have built these structures. "You can imagine these being put up, the kind of ceremonies which had happened, the person who had been commemorated, how important they were to the populace around, and what led to them being commemorated in such a grand way," says Menon.

Beyond the prehistoric

Menon also takes his audience to a relatively more recent past: Kanaganahalli, situated about 3 km from Sannati in Kalaburagi district on the banks of the Bhima River, where two of his other stories are set. "I think it is *the* archaeological discovery of the second half of the 20th century in India," he says.

For millennia, this site was best known for the Chandralamba Parameshwari temple, where pilgrims coalesced to worship Chandralamba Devi, an incarnation of the Goddess Lakshmi. In 1986, the roof of the shrine within the temple collapsed, breaking the idol, so a new one had to be installed; when they removed the idol from the Panipeetha or base slab, inscriptions were found on it, which turned out to be Ashokan edicts.

"All of a sudden, Kanaganahallii and all that came into the southern limits of the Mauryan Empire," he says, adding that the entire area is rich in Buddhist heritage.

According to him, many other marvellous monuments and inscriptions were discovered here, including a Maha Stupa, stone slabs rendered with Jataka stories and even a sculpture of Emperor Ashoka with his name etched on it. During the interaction, he also discusses the universality and power of narrative and the intricacy of these carvings and monuments that have often been created using very basic tools.

So spectacular are some of these ancient marvels that sceptics often assume that many marvels, including the Kailasa Temple in Ellora, were created by aliens, says Menon. But, "I think we underestimate the power of the mind."

Cultural continuity

The idea of the continuity of commemorative traditions crops up repeatedly during the talk. Menon says new meanings are often attributed to ancient artefacts, using a photo taken at Avathi in the Devanahalli Taluk near the airport to drive this point. Pointing to a collection of vermillion and turmeric-smeared stones, he explains that these are stone axes from the Neolithic period, which have been repurposed into deities and are now being worshipped, says Menon.

A similar transformation of meaning can be found in other megalithic sites. "Even if there's cultural discontinuity happening, people of one culture find what was sacred or special to certain earlier cultures special as well, and they often build their monuments the same place," he says, pointing out that in many regions, temples are found close to rock art or megalithic sites.

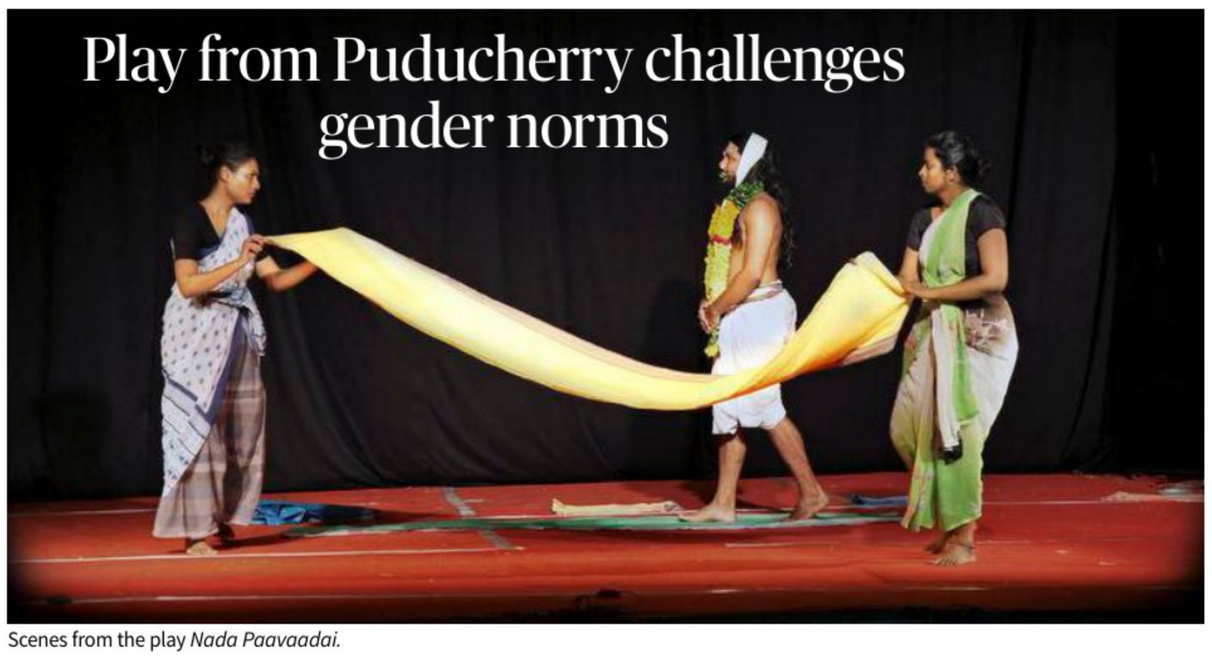
This transformation of meaning also plays a vital role in conservation. Ownership is necessary because many of these prehistoric sites are frequently at risk of being cleared for development, vandalised or neglected, leading to an erasure of our heritage. Menon makes his point using the tragic example of the destruction of Hanamasagar in Kalaburagi, one of India's largest stone alignments, cleared to make room for agriculture. "What people must have laboured on for long periods can be removed in a matter of minutes by your bulldozers," says Menon, who believes that creating awareness about our ancient monuments is critical to preserving them.

"I think awareness is a first step towards protection," he says. "When you know what a thing is and start visiting its site, you will feel its value. And what we like, we protect."

The rock-cut temple at Thal. SRIKUMAR MENON

A menhir at Nileaskal. SRIKUMAR MENON

Play from Puducherry challenges gender norms


Scenes from the play *Nada Paavaadai.*

The play about a woman who performs burial rites evolved out of close observation, followed by ethnographic fieldwork and discussions

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

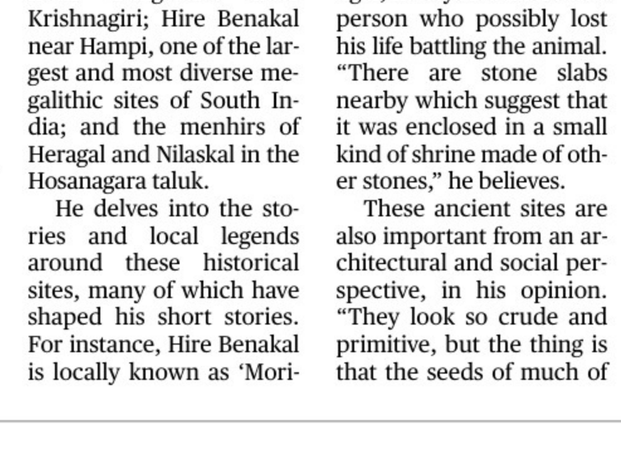
Nada Paavaadai, which translates to "walking skirt", a play by the Velippadai Theatre Movement from Puducherry, is set to make its debut in Bengaluru, bringing a narrative that challenges deep-rooted social norms surrounding gender and tradition.

The play that is being presented in Tamil at Bengaluru International Centre (BIC), Domlur, on October 9, at 7 p.m., follows the journey of a determined woman who steps into an unconventional role – performing burial rites.

Taking on a role

Directed by Ramassamy S., according to the synopsis of the play, *Nadapaavaadai* centres on a woman who is forced to conduct burial rites for her entire village after the passing of her family member, who previously performed these duties in a small village in Puducherry. Due to social inequality and prevailing customs, women are rarely permitted to even enter the crematorium in these areas. The characters in the play question the woman's access to the crematorium and her role in carrying out those rituals that are traditionally associated with men.

The woman leads the burial rites in full face of the public - which many would be reluctant to undertake or would not be allowed to do.


Nadapaavaadai attempts to initiate an engaging dialogue about her role in diverse social and cultural contexts and its implications.

This play has evolved out of close observation, followed by extensive ethnographic fieldwork, discussions, and participatory playmaking, says Ramassamy. "This play is based on a true incident. I was doing a theatre course at Pondicherry University and doing many observational projects; that is when I came across this woman in a village called Kuruvinatham. She was performing funeral rituals when I first saw her, and that was a very unusual rite. It is usually only the men from the community who perform these rites. Later on, I learned that all the men in her community had passed away, and she was the only senior person in the community. The village forced her to continue performing the funeral rites. She could not say no or oppose what the village wanted," he added.

A life on stage

Ramassamy says that before premiering the play to the public, it was presented to the funeral performer herself, and she was happy to see her life story on stage. The play stars trained actors from across Kuruvinatham and other villages in Puducherry and T.N.

"This has been a project that has been in my mind since 2010, and since then, I have been researching and working on the script. I met this woman several times over the years. We discovered the dimensions of caste, religion, communities and more through the journey. In 2022, we made this play, but for many months before we started making the play, I took our actors to the village and made sure they understood the community well. They lived there, met this woman, saw her day-to-day routines, understood how the funeral rituals are performed and a lot more," he adds.

Ramassamy, an actor, trainer, and director, has a master's degree in theatre and drama from Pondicherry University and a professional diploma in intercultural theatre acting from the Intercultural Theatre Institute, Singapore. He is known for his plays like *Iraniyan Allathu Inaiyattra Veeran* and *Walks Off Life,* among others. The troupe Velippadai Theatre Movement was founded as a community initiative in 2013 to develop a deep connection with the lives, sufferings and concerns of the self and others as well as to inculcate a new awareness in the rural context of Pondicherry about both tradition and modernity.

Entry for the play is free on a first-come-first-served basis on RSVP on the BIC website.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 8, 1974

Minimum auto fare to be raised to 60 paise

Bangalore, Oct. 7: The minimum fare for autorickshaws plying in the State is proposed to "be revised from the existing 45 paise to 60 paise. The Government has published the draft of the directions in this regard to the State Transport Authority and has called for objections, which will be taken into consideration on or after November 15, 1974.

The ad hoc committee of the Autorickshaw Drivers' Union, Bangalore, will meet to-morrow to consider the draft, according to a statement issued by the committee convener. It may be recalled that autorickshaws were off the road in Bangalore for about a week last month protesting against the reduction of the minimum fare from 90 paise to 45 paise.

Noise Hampers Workers' Efficiency

Bangalore, Oct 7: What is noise? What causes It? According to scientists and vibration analysts, noise is an "unwanted" sound caused mostly by vibration phenomenon. The adverse effects of noise and vibration on human beings are well-known and their impact is both psychological and physiological. Scientists who measure noise have calculated the extent of damage it can cause.

Delivering the inaugural address of the "Advance training program me on vibration and noise in industry" sponsored by the National Productivity Council here recently, Brigadier N. Dayal, Controller, Controllerate of Inspection Electronics, Bangalore, said that in Industrial surroundings, noise was mostly caused by the operation of different kinds of machinery.

CITYBEATS

Sweet moments

ONGOING
India Sweet House has launched a special gift box for the season. Called the Navarathna Collection, this sweet box is a part of its Festive Collection 2024 and has sweets made with "no artificial flavours, preservatives, or varak". The store claims the sweets which include Mysore pak, Bombay halwa, motichur laddu, kaju katli, dry fruit bites, and sugarfree laddus are will be delivered within 12 hours.
Available across India Sweet House outlets. Call 9242420101 for details.

Shop a lifestyle

OCTOBER 8
The Hi Life exhibition for this festive season includes *shararas, lehengas, anarkalis,* tunics and jackets. Jewellery, bridal wear, fashion accessories and more will also be available. You can shop for bridal wear, footwear, bed linen, nail art, bags and clutches as well as skin care products. There will also be stalls with semi-precious stone creations, pottery, hand-made soaps, masks and diyas.
On till October 10 at The Lalit Ashok.

Binge worthy buffet

OCTOBER 10
Celebrate Durga Pujo with this special buffet that showcases the cultural heritage and culinary delights of Bengal. The menu offers you traditional dishes such as *aam chanar chop, echorer kofta curry, Basanti pulao, chitol macher muitha, bhetki paturi, daab chingri* and Sunday mutton curry to name a few. *Mishti doi* and *chhanar payesh* are the items that can be found on the dessert list.
On till October 13, buffet priced at ₹1522 plus tax. At Esplanade, Double Road Indiranagar.

Golden legacy

Every Navaratri, a 112-year-old gold sari presented by the Maharaja of Mysore, Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, is presented for viewing. A look at its history...

Ranjani Govind

Kamal TN and Sowmya Kamal, residents of Subramanyapura in Uttarahalli, are custodians of a woven legacy that dates back more than a century. The article in their possession is a gold sari that was commissioned by none other than the Maharaja of Mysore Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar.

For four generations, this family has been safe guarding a pure silk-and gold-sari weighing nearly two kilograms, which was presented to Kamal's great-grandfather Tunga Adappa Shetty, Head Shroff of the Mysore Palace by the then Mysore King Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar. The sari was a return gift to the devoted palace employee whom the King held in high regard.

"It is said, the two were known as walking friends," says Kamal.

"We keep the sari in a pure cotton cover inside a locker, bringing it out only during Navaratri as the sari symbolises Devi Shakthi, and has to be worshipped during the nine nights that represent the feminine nature of the divine," says Sowmya.

The Tunga Adappa Shetty family are well aware of the sari's heritage value. Kamal's father Narayana Murthy says, "We are fortunate that my son Kamal and daughter-in-law Sowmya have a similar mindset in honouring our cultural inheritance. This outlook has seen this century-old sari preserved in its original splendour."

"We follow this as a tradition and the sari is at the centre of Navaratri puja and festivities. It is only for one day during Dasara that the sari is displayed for the benefit of textile connoisseurs and heritage lovers. Elders in the family have told us the Maharaja took personal interest in ensuring the Kanjeevaram craftsmen adhered to the specifics they were given," says Sowmya.

Pride and joy Kamal TN and Sowmya Kamal with the heirloom golden sari. SUDHAKARA JAIN / THE HINDU

"According to stories handed down, it took the best of Tamil Nadu's weavers a few months to create the sari in pure silk and gold zari. Adappa Shetty and the Maharaja monitored its progress, with weavers regularly bringing them the sari for approval as it took shape," adds Kamal.

Warp and weft
In 1897, during the reign of Mysore Maharaja Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, a fire broke out at Amba Vilas Palace at the wedding ceremonies of his sister Princess Jayalakshmanni. The 11-day inferno reduced the royal mansion to a heap of rubble, despite the best efforts of experts who were called in from Bengaluru.

The new Fort Mysore Palace which came up in its stead was inaugurated in 1912, and the Maharaja opened it for viewing to thousands of invitees. Tunga Adappa Shetty and his family were one of the special guests at the occasion and the hand-woven Kanjeevaram wonder was an exclusive return gift for them from the Maharaja of Mysore.

Attention to detail
Apparently, the Maharaja wanted to immortalise the new palace in a work of art for posterity's sake. After several discussions, it was decided to have a sari woven that captured its design and décor. "The sari shows Amba Mahal in its entirety and is said to be the only depiction of the palace's history recreated in fabric. That the Maharaja chose to gift this piece of art to my great-grandfather, from among his close associates, explains their friendship and bond. That is what we treasure, apart from its material value," says Kamal.

The sari is a resplendent hue of magenta with gold checks running throughout and an extravagant gold brocade border. Its *pallu* sports the erstwhile Mysore State emblem of the *Gandaberunda* (mythical bird) sitting bold and pretty on either side, while multiple panels within have traditional motifs of parrots, swans, horses, elephants, peacocks and pillars.

The sari retains its original glory from the time it was woven in 1912 and till date, its colour, sheen and thread work remain intact due to the use of pure zari and silk, say its owners.

For details of Navaratri display this year contact kamaltn@gmail.com or call 9343885151

Brewing something new

Prachi Rathi

In Bengaluru, the coffee scene is vibrant, with brewers boldly experimenting with innovative flavours and ingredients. Here are our picks of the cafes that are pushing the boundaries with unique blends.

Coffee Paloma, Muro
Located on Church Street, Muro's cafe menu has a diverse coffee collection sourced from coffee estates worldwide. Coffee Paloma, a crowd favourite, is one such. The iced drink is a mix of tart grapefruit, citrus notes from kaffir lime and a bold taste from the espresso shot. The flavours are unique and refreshing.
₹295 plus taxes. On Church Street

Creamy raspberry latte, Muru Muru
Muru Muru boasts various signature and classic coffee options on their menu, but the creamy raspberry latte has caught our eye. The coffee has the creaminess of milk and the tanginess of the berries. The well-balanced beverage is available in both hot and cold options.
Starting at ₹185 plus taxes. At Indiranagar

Coffee kombucha, Araku Coffee
Araku Coffee's coffee kombucha, brings together two favourite beverages into one. Kombucha is a sweet fizzy fermented tea that is known to have several health benefits due to the presence of probiotic bacteria. The coffee kombucha at Araku is light, sweet, and tangy made with 100% arabica coffee from the Araku valley.
₹200 plus taxes. At Indiranagar

Millet jaggery latte, Kana by Coffee Mechanics
2023 was declared the International Year of Millets by the UN, and since then there has an increase in the popularity of millets in menus. At Kana by Coffee Mechanics, the millet jaggery latte is one such creation. Made with barista grade millet milk, it has a sweet, smooth and a nutty flavour. The drink is sweetened with jaggery and topped with an espresso shot. This one is guilt-free and tasty.
₹280 plus taxes. At HBR Layout

Clarified cappuccino, Maverick and Farmer
Maverick and Farmer's interesting experiments focus on creating new flavour profiles. Co-founder Ashish D'Abreo describes their clarified cappuccinoas a milk-based beverage without milk. It uses a clarification technique which is usually used in making cocktails. Brewing this takes time and is therefore prepared in batches. Served with rosemary and orange for freshness, it is light, refreshing and easy on the palate
₹210 plus taxes. At outlets across the city

Bengaluru and *The Mahabharata*

Storyteller Aparna Jaishankar talks about how the city's connect with *The Mahabharata* go way back

Sona Christy

"The stories I narrate do not influence religion, politics or any specific ideology. My stories are all about exploring and unwinding hidden mysteries," says Aparna Jaishankar, a Bengaluru-based storyteller, who was analysing *The Mahabharata* during a storytelling session at Atta Galatta recently.

Bengaluru, a bustling metropolis known for its IT industry and modern amenities, has a deep-rooted connection to ancient Indian mythology. "I stumbled on this while researching for my work on *The Mahabharata* – it was a mix of me finding the story and the story finding me. Since I lived in Bangalore, I had better access to the temples here and even a cursory glance at carvings reveal how they are not random sculptures, but actual stories," says Aparna.

Tale of a city Storyteller Aparna Jaishankar. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ritual connect
She says one of the most prominent examples of *The Mahabharata*'s influence in Bengaluru is the Gaja Gowri Vrata, a ritual observed by women during the Bhadrapad month. "This ritual, which involves praying for the wellbeing of one's sons, is believed to have originated from the advice given to the mothers of the Pandavas and Kauravas by the sage Narada. The ritual's connection to *The Mahabharata* is evident in the symbolism and prayers used during the ceremony," she explains.

Aparna says she finds *The Mahabharata* intriguing due to the complexities of its characters and their stories, and how it leaves itself open to interpretation. "*The Mahabharata* has many versions across the country and its influence on Bengaluru is a testament to its enduring appeal and its ability to resonate with people across cultures and generations. The city's rich tapestry of temples, rituals, and folklore offers a glimpse into the deep-rooted connection between the city and the epic."

Local hero
Bengaluru's *Mahabharata* connection also includes the legend of Kannappa Nayanar, a local hero believed to be an incarnation of Arjuna, one of the Pandavas. "His unwavering devotion to Lord Shiva is depicted in intricate carvings on the pillars of the Someshwara temple in Halsoor. The legend has become an integral part of Bengaluru's folklore, inspiring countless devotees and storytellers," she says.

In the upcoming months, Aparna says she will be looking at stories connected with Kanjivaram saris, which "are a tapestry of stories", as well as a series titled Divine Delicacies – an exploration of food and mythology, and the prasadam served at temples.

Siddique appears for questioning in rape case

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Actor Siddique appeared for questioning at the office of Thiruvananthapuram City Police Commissioner G. Sparjan Kumar on Monday.

A special investigation team (SIT) has been investigating the actor on the charge of raping an aspiring actor in a hotel room in the city in 2016. The Supreme Court had earlier temporarily stayed Mr. Siddique's arrest.

Actor Biju Pappan and Siddique's son, Shaheen Siddique, accompanied the actor. Mr. Siddique had earlier sent an e-mail to the SIT expressing his willingness to appear for questioning.

His defence team confirmed that the mail was sent on October 3.

Kerala Assembly adjourned after stand-off by rival sides

Chief Minister accuses Leader of the Opposition of lowering the status of his office, and says the UDF has been running a misinformation campaign; leaders surround the Speaker's podium

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Speaker A.N. Shamseer adjourned the Assembly on Monday following a tense stand-off between the Treasury and Opposition benches.

A verbal duel between Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan marked the day's tumultuous proceedings. The main point of contention emerged when Mr. Satheesan accused Mr. Shamseer of arbitrarily striking down 49 written questions, many of which required answers from Mr. Vijayan, at the government's behest.

Mr. Vijayan accused Mr. Satheesan of lowering the status of the office of Leader of the Opposition by allegedly disparaging the Chair and questioning the Speaker's integrity.

Opposition MLAs protesting outside the Kerala Assembly after staging a walkout from the House on Monday. S. MAHINSHA

Mr. Satheesan riposted that he prayed daily that he did not become "corrupt like the Chief Minister". An apparently provoked Mr. Vijayan replied there was no equivalency between "Vijayan and Satheesan".

At one point, Opposition besieged the Speaker's podium, prompting the Assembly's watch and ward to throw a security ring around him.

The bedlam broke out after Mr. Vijayan agreed to an adjournment debate on the Opposition's accusation that he had promoted the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) narrative calibrated to other the people of Malappuram district as economic offenders and anti-nationals.

Mr. Vijayan said the government wanted to clear the air and expose the UDF's misinformation campaign. Later, Law Minister P. Rajeeve said the UDF had shied away from the debate, fearing it would expose their lie.

Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) MLA P.K. Kunhalikutty said, "The government has caused deep hurt by depicting a people and a region as economic offenders. We will raise the matter repeatedly in the Assembly and outside till the government renders a public apology."

Body of former Cong. MLA's brother found

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The body of B.M. Mumtaz Ali, 52, a businessman and younger brother of B.A. Mohiuddin Bava, former Congress MLA for Mangaluru City North, was found on Monday, a few metres away from the spot where he had jumped into the Phalguni here on Sunday.

The body was found floating about 15 metres away from the point on the Kuloor bridge, across the river, where Ali had jumped. The Mangaluru police shifted the body for autopsy. In afternoon, the body was handed over to the family and last rites were conducted soon after.

Police Commissioner Anupam Agrawal told reporters that Mr. Ali left his house at Baikampady in his high-end car at 3 a.m. Near the MCF unit, he hit the rear end of a bus around 4 a.m. Mr. Ali moved around in the area. He posted an audio message in the family group naming some persons who were into extorting him by threatening to release his sleaze video.

He also mentioned about ending his life. Mr. Ali parked his vehicle on the Kuloor bridge and jumped into the waters. Two mobile phones, including the one from which Mr. Ali posted the audio, were seized from the car. A taxi driver had seen Mr. Ali jumping from the bridge.

(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph.: 104 for help.)

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karnataka, Kerala and Lakshadweep. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, coastal Andhra Pradesh, central Maharashtra and Konkan & Goa

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	32.0	25.8	Kozhikode	3	32.8	25.4
Ahmedabad	—	37.4	25.5	Kurnool	—	34.5	24.8
Aizawl	5	28.8	21.5	Lucknow	15	34.6	24.5
Allahabad	—	35.7	26.0	Madurai	—	34.0	25.6
Bengaluru	—	29.4	21.8	Mangaluru	15	31.8	23.4
Bhopal	—	33.1	21.6	Mumbai	0.4	36.5	25.8
Bhubaneswar	10	33.2	25.0	Mysuru	—	31.0	20.0
Chandigarh	—	33.0	22.0	New Delhi	—	35.4	23.2
Chennai	—	33.3	27.5	Patna	—	33.6	27.1
Coimbatore	4	33.4	22.8	Port Blair	0.1	29.5	25.4
Dehradun	—	32.6	20.3	Puducherry	—	33.4	26.5
Gangtok	0.1	22.0	17.4	Pune	—	35.5	23.9
Goa	—	33.0	25.4	Raipur	—	34.4	25.5
Guwahati	0.8	33.0	24.4	Ranchi	2	30.7	22.4
Hubballi	—	30.0	23.0	Shillong	—	23.5	15.0
Hyderabad	0.8	31.6	22.3	Shimla	—	26.2	16.5
Imphal	—	24.5	20.2	Srinagar	—	26.7	10.4
Jaipur	—	35.8	24.9	Thiruvananthapuram	43	29.8	23.2
Kochi	9	29.8	25.0	Tiruchi	—	34.3	25.6
Kohima	—	21.5	16.0	Vijayawada	0.8	33.2	25.4
Kolkata	15.7	33.4	25.4	Visakhapatnam	—	34.0	27.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	5	53	28	161	115	
Bengaluru	7	15	48	92	114	
Chennai	45	3	24	42	66	
Delhi	37	69	87	120	320	
Hyderabad	9	21	49	76	140	
Kolkata	5	67	22	41	51	
Lucknow	10	8	63	28	67	
Mumbai	3	48	36	80	250	
Pune	7	126	99	92	107	
Visakhapatnam	9	56	32	115	151	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Imphal, Manipur recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 500 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 22

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Tribal leader to receive award for conservation works

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Hulikanu Wildlife Conservancy Foundation (HWCF) in Bengaluru has announced the nomination of J.T. Rajappa, a tribal conservationist and community leader, for the Hulikanu Progressive Adivasi Wildlife Award.

A release from HWCF said Mr. Rajappa, born in 1965 into the Jenu Kuruba tribe, has dedicated his life to blending wildlife conservation with the uplift of forest-dwelling communities in Nagarahole, Karnataka.

J.T. Rajappa (left) was elected to the Virajpet taluk panchayat and helped resettle 300 tribal families. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In 2005, he was elected to the Virajpet taluk panchayat, where he began making positive changes.

Since 2007, Mr. Rajappa has played a key role in the voluntary resettlement of over 300 tribal families to modern communities outside the Nagarahole Tiger Reserve.

As per the HWCF's release, Mr. Rajappa led the relocation of 150 families to Settahalli in Hansur taluk in 2010. He has also served on important committees, including the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) between 2012 and 2015, and the Mysore District Relocation Committee after 2015. In response to the award announcement, Mr. Rajappa said: "This substantial and prestigious award has come as a timely shot in the arm for me. I vow to work with redoubled vigour to deliver progress to my forest-dwelling communities without diminishing wildlife conservation values of Nagarahole, through my intensified effort to promote voluntary relocation as a win-win conservation solution in the years to come."

The award includes a cash prize of ₹3 lakh and will be presented to Mr. Rajappa later this month.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, खूँटी

शुद्धि पत्र

इस प्रमंडल द्वारा आमंत्रित अति अल्पकालीन ई–पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या RDD/SD/KHUNTI/04/2024-25 **जिसका पी.आर. संख्या 337679 RURAL DEVELOPMENT (2024-25) D है, जिसे निम्न प्रकार संशोधित किया जाता है :–**

क0 सं0	विवरण	पूर्व प्रकाशित तिथि/समय	संशोधित तिथि एवं समय
1	वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	01.10.2024	05.10.2024
2	ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय	01.10.2024 से 07.10.2024 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक	07.10.2024 से 16.10.2024 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
3	ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	08.10.2024 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे	17.10.2024 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे

निविदा सूचना की शेष शर्तें पूर्ववत रहेगी।

PR 338278 Rural Development(24-25)#D

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, खूँटी

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, चाईबासा
email- rwdchaibasa64@gmail.com

शुद्धि पत्र

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक– 1318(अनु0) दिनांक–20.09.2024 द्वारा आमंत्रित ई निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं0–**10/2024-25/RWD/EE/CHAIBASA** जिसका **PR No–336592 West Singhbhum (24-25)_D** में निकाली गई निविदा के क्रम सं0– 2 एवं 3 को आंशिक रूप से संशोधित किया जाता है जो निम्न है –

क्र0	पूर्व में दैनिक समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित	संशोधित तिथि
1	वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :– 28.09.2024	वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 08.10.2024
2	ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :–08.10.2024 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक।	ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :– 18.10.2024 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक।
3	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :– 09.10.2024 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे।	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :– 19.10.2024 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे।

निविदा की शेष कंडिकाएँ एवं शर्तें यथावत् रहेंगी।

विश्वासभाजन,
कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल,चाईबासा

PR 338195 (West Singhbhum)24-25*D

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I - BENGALURU
No.4, Second Floor, LIC Jeevan Mangal Building, Residency Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560025.

FORM NO. 14 (See Regulation 33 (2))
DRC No.: 680/2019

Indian Overseas Bank, Cantonment Branch, "Emerald Plaza", 38 & 39, Dispensary Road, Bengaluru-560001. ...Certificate Holder

Versus

M/s. White Orange Works ...Certificate Debtor(s)

DEMAND NOTICE

To

M/s. White Orange Works, Proprietor: **Mr. Ramprasad Raju C.N.,** No.12, 2nd Floor, 7th Cross, Central Street, Kumarapark West, Bengaluru-560020. Also at: **M/s. White Orange Works,** Proprietor: **Mr. Ramprasad Raju C.N.,** No.66, SBI Officers Colony, 6th Main, Basaveshwara Nagar, Vijay Nagar, Bengaluru-560020. Also at: **M/s. White Orange Works,** Proprietor: **Mr. Ramprasad Raju C.N.,** No.5, First Floor, "Myrtle Lane", Richmond Town (Canara Bank Back Side), Bengaluru-560025.

In view of the Recovery Certificate issued in **OA No.575/2014** passed by the **Hon'ble Presiding Officer, DRT, Bengaluru on 16-07-2019** an amount of **Rs.25,49,735/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Forty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Five Only)** is due against you along with interest and costs from date of filing of O.A.s till realization.

You are hereby called upon to deposit the above sum within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.

In additions to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay:

a. Such interest as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the execution proceedings.

b. All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this **06th day of August 2019.**

Sd/- (DEEPAINDUVANI.S)
RECOVERY OFFICER-II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, BENGALURU

RAICHUR POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(YERMARUS THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN-U40101KA2009PLC049582

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

RPCL invites bids through Gok e-procurement platform from reputed bidders. **1) No. KPCL/2024-25/IND0954/CALL-5 Dtd: 27-09-2024.** Procurement of mechanical seal for mill LOP. **2) No. KPCL/2024-25/ND1131/CALL-3, Dtd: 26-09-2024.** Procurement of spares for RPG elevators in CHP. **3) No. KPCL/2024-25/IND1260 Dtd:26-09-2024.** Procurement of Thermal Imager with photo lens. **4) No. KPCL/2024-25/IND1197/CALL-2 Dtd:26-09-2024.** Procurement of Displays for ECP. **5) No. KPCL/2024-25/IND1252 Dtd:26-09-2024.** Procurement of Illumination spares. **6) No. KPCL/2024-25/IND1129/CALL-3 Dtd:25-09-2024.** Procurement of HT Junction box. **7) No. KPCL/2024-25/IND1104/CALL-3 Dtd:25-09-2024.** Procurement of HT copper and Aluminium cables. **8) No. KPCL/2024-25/IND1199/CALL-2 Dtd:25-09-2024.** Procurement of 33KV isolators. **9) No. KPCL/2024-25/IND1254 Dtd:25-09-2024.** Procurement of spares for 18 Nos ofvacuum pumps for AHP. **10) No. KPCL/2024-25/IND1253 Dtd:24-09-2024.** Procurement of Alpha sp 68 & Alpha sp 220 for VTPS.

Last date of receipt of tender: (For Sl. No. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, & 10) **14.10.2024 upto 16:00 hrs.** (For Sl. No. 6, 7 & 8) **09.10.2024 upto 16:00 hrs.** (For Sl. No. 2) **15.10.2024 upto 16:00 hrs.** Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (MSP),** RPCL-YTPS, Yeramarus - 584134. Raicur Dist, Mobile-9480682892.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR.

I.F.T.No:EE/PWD/VJP/PB/3054-MDR/2024-25/2146
Dated:07.10.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION (3rd Call)
(E-Procurement)

The- **Executive Engineer, Public Works Dept. Division, Vijayapur** Invites tenders from eligible tenderers (registered in Public Works Department) Total 1 work, 1 work is reserved for Schedule Caste (SC) Contractors. As per standard bid documents KW-3 with 3054 MDR Maintenance accounts costing of amount for Rs. 56.26 Lakhs, the EMD amount of Rs. 56,300.00 for the work. As per Govt Order FD:876:EXP-12:2017 Bangalore Dated-10-10-2017 relaxation of EMD for SC/ST Contractors. Increase in G.S.T shall not be paid in the extended period of Contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time. The calendar events of tenders, dates are fixed as follows 1) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders Date- 15-10-2024 upto 4.30 PM. 2) Opening of Technical Bid Date- 16-10-2024 at 4.31 PM. 4) Opening of Financial Bid Date-18-10-2024 at 4.30 PM. Clause-3 Conditions of Standard Bid Document may be seen in Departmental Website i.e "kppp.karnataka.gov.in" and for more information may contact help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 918025501216 & 918025501227) or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Vijayapur

DIPR/VIJAYAPURA/303/KSMCA/2024-25

EDUCATION HUB — A Business Initiative

Cambridge Institute of Technology Inaugurates Academic Year 2024-25 with Prestigious Ceremony

Cambridge Institute of Technology proudly hosted the First-Year Inauguration Ceremony for the academic year 2024-25. The event witnessed the presence of distinguished dignitaries, staff, and students, setting the tone for an inspiring and successful academic journey for the incoming batch. The inauguration was graced by Chief Guest Dr. M. C. Sudhakar, Honorable Minister for Higher Education, GOK, who addressed the students. Accompanying him as the Guest of Honor was Shri Anand Munshi, a globally renowned Futurist, Executive Coach, and Storyteller, known for his motivational insights. Dr. K.N. Balasubramanya Murthy, Advisor to CIT, also shared his words of wisdom during the event. A key highlight of the ceremony was the official release of the latest edition of "Inspire", the institute's prestigious newsletter. "Inspire" provides insights into the campus's achievements, ongoing initiatives, and future aspirations, serving as a beacon of knowledge and inspiration for students and faculty alike. The Presidential Address further reinforced CIT's mission to drive innovation and leadership, nurturing students to become not only scholars but also change-makers of tomorrow.

CMR University Concludes 2nd International Conference on Digital Transformation and Economic Sustainability

The School of Management at CMR University successfully hosted the 2nd International Conference on Driving Innovative Digital Transformation and Economic Sustainability (ICODES 2024), in collaboration with global academic institutions and industry leaders. The two-day event brought together 469 delegates, including over 250 research paper presenters, both online and offline. The conference focused on three pivotal Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production, and SDG 13 - Climate Action. VC Prof. H.B. Raghavendra welcomed the delegates and guests to the conference. The conference was inaugurated by Sri. Manivannan P, IAS, Principal Secretary, Social Welfare Department, GOK, who served as the Chief Guest. Dr. K.C. Ramamurthy, IPS (Retd), Chairman of CMR University and former Rajya Sabha MP, presided over the conference. Dr. Atish Chattopadhyay, Guest of Honour and VC of Vijay Bhoomi University, highlighted the need for coordinated efforts to address the challenges of economic growth. The conference provided a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange, with sessions focused on innovative approaches to digital transformation, economic sustainability, and climate action. To honor their contributions, distinguished guests were presented with mementos as a token of appreciation from CMR University.

Christ Junior College, Bengaluru Magnachrista and Cosmos V 9.0.

Christ Junior College held the ninth version of its biennial project-based event, COSMOS 9.0 and its intercollegiate cultural fest MAGNACHRISTA. Incorporating the theme of "Progress with Purpose: A Symbiosis of Interconnected Beings", and celebrating SDG 15 "Life on Land" and UN's designation of 2024 as the "International Year of Camelids", Cosmos displayed projects from an array of disciplines that included Science, Commerce, Social Science, and Languages. The exhibition, inaugurated by Dr Annapurani Subramanium, Director of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, saw a plethora of projects on varied topics such as 'Impact of Industrialization on Bio-Landscapes', 'Revolutionary Smart Speed System', 'Politics of Climate Change', 'Threes a Crowd? Man, Machine and Mother Earth', 'Camelids of Francophonies', and much more. The event was a spectacular success, with colourful stalls filled with sharp minded students presenting their projects. Magnachrista on the other hand was a golden opportunity for students from over 20 colleges across the city to showcase their cultural and artistic skills in an ocean of literary, stage, and art events such as Mathlympics, Just a Minute, Hindi and Kannada Debate, Junk Fashion, Bend the Trend, Monodrama, Battle of Bands, Acapella and more.

15th Graduation Day: RajaRajeswari College of Engineering

Recently Raja-Rajeswari College of Engineering (RRCE) proudly celebrated its Graduation Day at the ACS Convention Centre, marking a significant milestone for the graduating Class of 2024. The ceremony was attended by enthusiastic graduates, faculty, family members, and distinguished guests. Esteemed Chairman Dr. A.C. Shanmugam, President A.C.S. Arun Kumar, Managing Trustee Smt. Lalithalakshmi, Executive Director S. Vijayananda, Chief Executive Officer Sri C.N. Seetharam (Ret. IAS), Special Officer Prof. Dr. S. Jeyabalan, Principal R. Balakkrishna, and other dignitaries presided over the event, leading to its success. The event also included a distinguished anel of chief guests: Dr. Debabrata Das, Director of the IIITB, Smt. Chaya Singh, acclaimed Indian cine actress, and Dr. Naganagouda S.J., Chief People Officer of Tally Solutions and former HR head at Mindtree. The proceedings began with a warm welcome speech by Principal R. Balakkrishna. The college has received a 4-star rating from MHRD for its initiatives. In a ceremonial moment, Dr. Shanmugam presented tokens of appreciation to the esteemed guests. In a significant moment, the graduates partook in an oath-taking ceremony, committing themselves to uphold the values and responsibilities associated with their degrees. The ceremony concluded with the presentation of degrees, celebrating the graduates' achievements as they embark on their next chapters with pride and joy, surrounded by their friends and family. This memorable day was a testament to the hard work and dedication of the students, as they embark on their next chapter, equipped with the knowledge and skills to shape their futures. The event ended with a heartfelt vote of thanks by the VP of RRCE, Amutharaj, who expressed gratitude to all attendees for making the day memorable.

Regulation role

The discovery of microRNA changed the understanding of gene regulation

This year's Nobel Prize in Physiology, or Medicine, awarded to Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun, is for their discovery of microRNA, small RNA regulators of gene expression in eukaryotes, and its role in gene regulation after transcription – the process of making an RNA copy (messenger RNA or mRNA) of a gene's DNA sequence – and before cellular machinery is activated for protein production. Before the discovery of microRNAs and their role in gene regulation, it was believed that gene regulation was limited to specialised proteins called transcription factors, which bind to specific regions in DNA and determine which mRNAs are produced. In 1993, using 1 mm long mutant roundworms called *C. elegans*, the winners of this year's Nobel provided proof that gene regulation is not confined to transcription factors. Instead, regulation by microRNAs occurs at a later stage in the process of gene expression, post-transcription. Despite these seminal findings, it was initially thought that this unusual mechanism of gene regulation was peculiar to *C. elegans* and not relevant to more complex organisms, including humans. However, the discovery of another microRNA encoded in a gene present in all organisms indicated that microRNA's role in gene regulation extends beyond roundworms. By 2001, microRNAs were found to be abundant in invertebrates and vertebrates, with some highly conserved across species, suggesting that "microRNA-mediated post-transcriptional regulation is a general regulatory function". As per current knowledge, the human genome codes for over 1,000 microRNAs.

Cancer, diabetes and autoimmune diseases are associated with dysregulated microRNA expression. In the case of cancer, dysregulation may include amplification or deletion of microRNA genes, abnormal transcriptional control of microRNAs, and defects in the microRNA biogenesis machinery. Studies have shown that dysregulated microRNAs affect the biological capabilities that cancer cells acquire during tumour development, including sustaining proliferative signalling, resisting cell death, and activating processes that allow cancer cells to spread in the body. Preliminary studies have also indicated that certain microRNAs can serve as potential biomarkers for human cancer diagnosis, prognosis, and therapeutic targets. It is now known that beyond perturbing immune responses, disruption and dysfunction of microRNAs can initiate the production of autoantibodies and contribute to the pathogenesis of autoimmune diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis. Several microRNA-associated diagnostic biomarkers have already been developed and used clinically, though they have yet to be commercialised. Likewise, candidate drugs targeting microRNAs are currently being tested in clinical trials.

Marina mayhem

The deaths at the Chennai air show could have been prevented

Events that draw huge crowds require careful preparations. The loss of five lives during an air show at mid-day on Chennai's Marina beach on October 6, organised by the Indian Air Force (IAF) as part of its 92nd anniversary, could have been avoided with better anticipation of the surge in spectators. The cause of death was attributed to heatstroke, though dehydration and suffocation may also have been factors. More than 200 people reportedly fainted. The IAF had issued advisories urging attendees to be well protected against the heat of around 34°C to 35°C. After the show, many complained of dizziness. Tamil Nadu Health Minister M. Subramanian said 102 individuals were sent to government hospitals nearby. In addition to the medical emergencies, chaos ensued on Chennai's roads for hours. Metro Rail and Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) trains were overcrowded. Stations were extremely congested and services were insufficient. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced a solatium of ₹5 lakh each to the families of those dead. He attributed the traffic congestion to the "overwhelming response", despite multiple departments coordinating preparations.

This is not the first time that Chennai has hosted such an event. An IAF air show on September 6, 2003, drew an estimated 13 lakh people, just 2,00,000 less than this year. Notably, there were no heatstroke fatalities then, although two children went missing. Traffic management and train services were similarly chaotic. Clearly, lessons have not been learned. The blame should be shared not only by the State government, responsible for logistical support, but also by the railway administration for its inadequate response. Defence officials should have provided more critical inputs than they did, given their experience in conducting such shows nationwide. After the crash of a fighter jet at an air show in New Delhi on October 8, 1989, the IAF seemed to have addressed its weak points to ensure smooth events related to Air Force Day. In a social media post, Mr. M. Subramanian claimed that the government had exceeded the requirements requested by the IAF. However, his assertion about sufficient toilets and drinking water did not align with complaints about inadequacies at the venue. The authorities should not have allowed several lakhs to converge at the Marina. Giant screens could have livestreamed the display and volunteers from higher education institutions could have assisted the police, transport and health officials to attend to those in distress. Defence officials and host States should critically review their plans. Only then can such mayhem be prevented.

A re-balancing of India's great power relations

Vinay Kaura

Assistant Professor, Department of International Affairs and Security Studies, Sardar Patel University of Police, Security and Criminal Justice, Rajasthan, and Non-Resident Scholar, Middle East Institute, Washington DC

Prime Minister's Narendra Modi's participation in the sixth Quad Leaders' Summit in Wilmington, Delaware, U.S. on September 21, 2024 has raised further hopes of consolidating security cooperation among the "four leading maritime democracies in the Indo-Pacific". Nevertheless, it was India's National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval's trip to Russia in early September for the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) NSA meeting, which included a high-profile personal meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, that needs greater analysis. Mr. Doval also held one-on-one parleys with the Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, which was equally significant since India is leaving no stone unturned to resolve the four-year-old military standoff with China at the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

India is currently busy bargaining with China, and protecting its interests while trying to keep the U.S. engaged in maintaining a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific. The fundamental idea behind the Quad (Australia, Japan, India and the U.S.) is the creation of a strategic consortium of principles, interests and purposes that would not only strengthen each country individually but would also be capable of jointly countering the revisionist challenge to the existing global order. This is where India's relations with Russia become significant since Moscow is a bitter opponent of the Quad.

Role of peace maker

It is not easy for India's security managers and diplomats to make this complex game work in New Delhi's interest. However, Mr. Doval has a reputation for being imaginative, nimble and persuasive. The Doval-Putin meet, where Mr. Doval conveyed Mr Modi's Ukraine peace plan, may be interpreted as India's attempt to cross the psychological Rubicon in great power diplomacy.

There is little doubt about India's willingness, as an aspiring global power, to shoulder the responsibility in peace making which may include the meaningful role of a dialogue facilitator or an interlocutor, if not mediator. The Doval-Putin meet was after Mr. Modi's first-ever visit to Ukraine in August, and to Moscow in July. In particular, the Russia visit had drawn scathing criticism from Ukraine. But despite its criticism of Indian policies, Ukraine, on many occasions, has asked New India to help resolve the conflict.

Mr. Doval subsequently met French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris, on the sidelines of annual India-France Strategic Dialogue, to apprise him of India's mediatory efforts. Many factors have prompted India to insert itself into global peace-making initiatives, and India's Russia dilemma is the most important of them. While India's strategic relationship with the U.S. is relatively new, India-Russia relations have endured for over six decades, and New Delhi has no appetite to relinquish the military advantages that come with this relationship. But since the war in Ukraine has triggered Russia's total break with the West, Moscow's pivot toward China has become even more pronounced. Functioning more or less as the junior partner of China, Russia has been struggling to preserve its partnership with India since its leverage with China has steadily shrunk due to fierce military resistance by Ukraine.

> By attempting to play a meaningful role in resolving the Ukraine conflict, India can hope to reset the terms of its engagement with both the West and Russia

From an Indian perspective, this needs correction because the Russia-China economic-military ties are getting too close to be ignored by New Delhi.

The West may have reconciled itself to India's purchase of Russian oil at discounted rates as well as New Delhi's silence on Russian aggression in Ukraine. Nevertheless, India's demonstration of independent foreign policy comes with a normative cost. The West has come to view India as being blatantly indifferent on issues which are so consequential for the remaking of the global order after the Ukraine conflict shattered the remnants of the post-Cold War landscape. By attempting to play a meaningful role in resolving an intractable conflict of epic global proportions, India can hope to reset the terms of its engagement with the West and Russia. Even though some voices would treat it as an attempt to please Washington, others would sound equally compelling in arguing that India is merely emphasising its strategic autonomy while buttressing its position as '*Vishwa Bandhu*', or a friend to the world.

Russia's China embrace

What has been the hallmark of India's foreign policy under Mr. Modi's leadership during the last one decade is a friendly, cooperative and sometimes transactional relationship with the U.S., and a non-adversarial, non-ideological and dispassionate relationship with Russia. However, Russia's foreign policy under Mr. Putin has been primarily driven by two key objectives: a deepening Moscow-Beijing nexus and the promotion of a multi-polar world order which would counter the hegemonic dominance of the western bloc led by the U.S. Mr. Putin's anti-western strategy includes both China and India as close allies. But India is unwilling to oblige as its strategic priorities do not fully align with those of Russia or China.

Russia's apparent unwillingness to diminish its partnership with India should have been predicated on the preservation of a reasonable balance of power between India and China and the avoidance of any major conflict between them. But the Russians have failed to give the same degree of concentrated attention to India which they have given to China. The reason is not far to seek. If Moscow's pursuit of closer ties with Beijing has been driven by a shared geopolitical contest with Washington, Russia's ties with India have lacked a similar motivation.

Consequently, New Delhi is increasingly finding Moscow's usefulness largely exhausted due to Russia's deepening China connection. China has not only been engineering many of India's security difficulties on their Himalayan borders but is also trying to profit from them. The most damaging has been the active support to Pakistan in elevating terrorism as a legitimate tool of statecraft. In the Indian world view, Russia's prioritisation of China in its foreign policy has lent Russian diplomacy an exasperating character.

Russia's break in its relations with the U.S. has pushed Moscow into a tighter embrace with Beijing, at a moment when relations between India and China are yet to be normalised. Moreover, Russia's ambitions of posing a serious challenge to American primacy by asserting a leadership role in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and BRICS also remain unfulfilled. With the Ukraine war, Russia's task of managing its relationship with India has become considerably more complicated. And that is what makes India concerned about it, leading to rebalancing of India's great power relations.

From past to present

This bold rebalancing does not necessarily require anything as far reaching as a full-fledged India-U.S. alliance. It requires our collective ability to turn increasingly away from the nostalgic images of Russia protecting India from the machinations of the Pakistan-U.S.-China nexus in the Bangladesh war. There is much scepticism about the merits of India's peace efforts when the war between Russia and Ukraine is showing no signs of de-escalation. The argument is that New Delhi does not really have the leverage to push either side to the negotiating table. Nor has the Indian leadership been accustomed to incur the displeasure of both parties in mediation efforts. But that should not be the justification for not trying to play the game of mediation. Symbolically as well as practically, Mr. Doval's publicly advertised and deft diplomatic interactions with Mr. Putin and Mr. Macron herald a new foreign policy dynamic in which conflict resolution efforts are viewed as a vital component of India's strategic autonomy.

In the end, the U.S.'s desire of seeing a ruined Russia is something India is not able to accept. It is also imperative for New Delhi to preserve the gains of the last two decades by fortifying its strategic partnership with the U.S. While the U.S. is undoubtedly the key player in the Quad, India too understands its underlying agenda, and accepts its fundamental features. New Delhi is aware of the structural impediments that stand in the path of any far-reaching development of India-China relations, and has no emotional commitment to their early improvement at strategically prohibitive cost.

Unpacking the Centre's affidavit on marital rape

Shraddha Chaudhary

Assistant Professor, School of Law, BML Munjal University

The Marital Rape Exception (MRE), in Section 63, Exception 2 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Section 375, Exception 2 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860) states that 'Sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under eighteen years of age, is not rape.' The provision is under challenge before the Supreme Court of India and the Centre has filed an affidavit in support of MRE which needs unpacking.

The issue of 'expectation'

Most of the arguments made by the Centre will, by now, be familiar to those acquainted with the debate around marital rape. It is stated that the differential treatment of married and unmarried women by MRE does not violate Article 14 of the Constitution of India (the right to equality) because married and unmarried women are not equally placed. The factum of marriage, it is argued, creates 'a continuing expectation of reasonable sexual access', which is absent in case of a stranger or of another intimate relationship. This, the affidavit contends, is a sufficient basis for the legislature to make a distinction between an incident of rape within and outside marriage. As a legal argument, this is alarmingly vague. Who gets to define what 'reasonable sexual access' means? And on what parameters? Is it a subjective definition (the person who has the expectation decides) or an objective one (there is one standard for everyone)? Does it encompass questions of different sexual acts or frequency or both?

That marriage creates a continuing expectation of reasonable sexual access is, at the outset, a dubious claim. More importantly, however, it remains to be established that it is a sound legal argument against striking down MRE. Going by traditional gender norms, marriage also creates a continuing expectation that a husband will 'provide for' his wife. Surely that cannot be grounds for saying that if a wife takes her husband's cars and sells them as scrap metal without his consent (perhaps even by force), she has not committed theft. It is also unclear why marriage creates such an expectation but other intimate relationships (for instance, live-in relationships) do not. Ordinarily, an expectation (a hope or belief that something will happen) is personal. It can arise as much in one kind of relationship as it can in another, depending on the person and the relationship. Perhaps the subtext of this claim is that the expectation of sexual access in a marriage is socially sanctified and acceptable in a way that a similar expectation in a live-in relationship is not. Even if that were the case, it remains to be argued why that ought to be legally relevant in a jurisdiction where individual autonomy (including sexual autonomy) and the dignity of the individual are constitutionally protected.

> It is very much within the jurisdiction of the judiciary to determine whether 'marital rape exception' violates a fundamental right

'Institution' and 'misuse'

Other familiar arguments found in the Centre's affidavit are that the recognition of marital rape as a criminal offence would affect the sanctity of the institution of marriage and potentially lead to false allegations of marital rape which would be difficult to disprove. As I have argued in this space, there is no evidence to suggest that the recognition of marital rape has a causal link with the strength of the institution of marriage. In any case, if the institution of marriage is so dependent on the impunity of a husband who rapes his wife, perhaps that is a reason to question its value and consider reforming it. The argument grounded in concerns of 'misuse' is a red herring. Any criminal offence may be misused and the very purpose of a criminal trial is to determine whether an alleged offence was committed (usually, to a standard beyond reasonable doubt). Moreover, statistics show that sexual offences are generally under-reported, and the real challenge is in proving, rather than disproving, an allegation of rape.

Arguments on jurisdiction

The Centre's affidavit also makes the claim that marital rape is a social, not a legal issue, and, therefore, not within the Court's jurisdiction. Given that law regulates (nearly) every aspect of human life and society, it is not clear whether and how there can be such a watertight distinction between a social and a legal issue. In any case, the fact that the Centre has addressed arguments on Articles 14 and 21 (the right to life) in its affidavit indicates that there is a legal issue at stake here. A related argument is that the decision on what should or should not be a criminal offence is a matter of legislative, rather than judicial, competence. There is some merit to this claim. It may, however, prove largely irrelevant. The Court is not required, in this matter, to declare marital rape a criminal offence (though the issue may colloquially be framed as such), but to assess the constitutionality of an existing law. MRE, being a 'law', is subject to Part III of the Constitution of India. In other words, the Court may not be empowered to decide whether marital rape should be a criminal offence or not, but it is very much within the jurisdiction of the Court to determine whether MRE violates a fundamental right, and to strike it down if it does.

Thus, the Centre's affidavit rehashes many familiar arguments in favour of MRE, but the legal merit of these arguments is questionable.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Put an end to this

As a mother of a 10-year-old girl, I am unable to even think of the terror that a nine-year-old girl in West Bengal underwent ("HC orders autopsy at AIIMS for Bengal child rape victim", October 7). I urge our legislators to amend the relevant sections in our laws to ensure rigorous punishment. Such brutal incidents are happening time and again and there needs to be a stop. Nothing can heal the deep wounds inflicted in the minds of the parents.

Chithra Joseph,
Hyderabad

Israel's aggression

It is the first anniversary of the October 7 attacks and Israel does not seem to be anywhere near stopping its offensive against non-state actors 'threatening' its sovereignty and peace. International leaders must prevent further escalations. The U.S. needs to reset its ties with Iran.

Shivansh Deo,
Motihari, Bihar

The assumed legitimacy of Netanyahu's military excesses that is driving him against Hamas and Hezbollah is that these organisations are named as terror outfits. He also has to go on with the wars as the moment they stop, there will be issues as far as the stability of his government is concerned. Another aspect of the conflict and its projection to the world is the heavily biased western media. It is time that Israel looks at the human angle.

S. Kamat,
Mysuru

Chennai air show

For spectators at Chennai's Marina, the show on Sunday by the Indian Air Force was mind boggling. Unfortunately, the weather and poor management were spoilers. We need to adopt best event management practices, leverage technology and data in planning for mass events and have a task force that brings the police, transport, health and civic officials on one platform.

R. Srivatsan,
Chennai

Though the event was a proud reminder of India's growing self-reliance in defence, it raises an important question about the need for the Indian Air Force to have aggressively promoted the show as an occasion to set a new world record by aiming to mobilise such an enormous crowd, much beyond the manageable level.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

The supporting cast in the U.S. elections

Dipankar Gupta

Former Professor at the Centre for the Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University

As the U.S. presidential elections near, gossip is ironically growing outside the shadows of the candidates of the Democratic and Republican Party, Kamala Harris and Donald Trump, respectively. The support cast is now more in the news, especially the vice-presidential nominees, Tim Walz (Democrat) and J.D. Vance (Republican). On their margins, other bit players are surfacing too. One is Liz Cheney, daughter of George Bush's Vice President, Dick Cheney, and the other is Melania Trump, wife of Mr. Trump.

The sudden spotlight

It did not begin that way. While an estimated 58 million watched the 2020 vice presidential debate between Mike Pence and Kamala Harris, this time, on October 1, when Mr. Vance and Mr. Walz squared off, there were just 43 million viewers, a clear 25% drop.

There is good reason for that. With Mr. Trump, there are no waverers. One either loves him to distraction or hates every coiffed hair on his head. Against this backdrop, vice presidents matter little as most of the fences are free of sitters. Mr. Trump's appeal has drummed them out and this further undermines who the vice president will be.

That both the contestants, Mr. Vance and Mr. Walz, were civil to each other made it even more inconsequential. There was no fur flying, nor blood on the floor. That would never have been the case if Mr. Trump had been in the ring. This is why it is surprising that the sequel is now attracting notice, well after the show is over.

Those in the Republican trenches, who are seasoned Trump warriors, are unhappy that Mr. Vance did not protest loudly enough that the Democrats "stole the 2020 elections", as Republicans have been alleging for a long time. To make matters worse, he shook hands with Mr. Walz at the start and end of the debate and chatted amicably for a while with the Democrat. Why not an embrace, Trumpists ask? After all, by the end, the two looked like childhood sweethearts, parting sadly before going off to college.

Why the vice-presidential nominees, Tim Walz and J.D. Vance, are more in the news now

An image makeover

Mr. Walz is having a hard time too, and for a similar reason. Democratic workers also view the debate's congeniality negatively. Mr. Walz, they say, did not hit Mr. Vance hard enough for scandalously calling Haitians in Ohio "pet-eating, illegal migrants". This gave Mr. Trump's image a makeover, weakening Ms. Harris's portrayal of him as a rule-breaking win-at-all-cost leader.

When Fred Warner, the 6 foot 3 inch, 230 pound American football linebacker, ran a touchdown late last month, one TV viewer said, without intending a double entendre, "That's my Trump." Linebackers rarely score touchdowns as they play defence and are amongst the strongest members in the team. Mr. Trump, like Mr. Warner, is big too and ready to break conventions, if that lets him win. Kid Rock, a rapper, said he supports Mr. Trump because he hates losing and not "because he's a nice guy. I'm not electing the deacon of a Church."

On the other hand, Ms. Harris's running mate, Mr. Walz, radiates a good neighbourly feel; ever ready to mow your lawn or repair a fuse. Great, but can he fight back, if he has to? Americans love a fighter, especially in a politician.

The backstories behind Mr. Walz and Mr. Vance are now getting more attention as if they might tip the scales. As Minnesota Governor, Mr. Walz passed many liberal laws on abortion, affordable housing and LGBTQ rights. That doesn't make him a soft touch, though. Larry Jacobs, a political scientist from Minnesota University , thinks Mr. Walz has "attack dog" skills. But on debate night, he was Mr. Affable.

Mr. Vance's past too is in the news. He is widely acknowledged for his Yale Law School-honed knife sharp intellect. He can run through flab and pierce your heart clean. Yet, when he faced Mr. Walz, Mr. Vance was not the ripper he is often cut out to be. To his credit, his meteoric rise is phenomenal, considering his parents were dysfunctional.

'Republicans for Democrats'

The spotlight on Ms. Harris's election trip to Wisconsin last week was to showcase Liz Cheney, rather than herself. A prominent Republican with a Republican heritage, Ms. Cheney now supports Ms. Harris for she fears Mr. Trump will harm democracy. John McCain's son, Jimmy McCain, too is going with Ms. Harris, adding to the numbers of "Republicans for Democrats" – a never-before grouping.

These Republicans are clearly not giving up their ideology but claim it is a temporary measure for the lasting good of democracy. It is doubtful if they can swing voters towards Ms. Harris but it is a cheesy, uplift photo op that can do no harm. Ms. Cheney, if truth be told, was earlier effortlessly pushed to the Republican sidelines by Mr. Trump and nobody in the party stood up for her.

Melania Trump is also getting huge publicity because in her just-released, tell-all memoir, she goes sensationally against her husband and sides with pro-choice abortionists. This is the hottest potato issue in this election and something that Ms. Harris is banking on exploiting to the full. Democrats are wishing in vain for another debate when they could rub salt in Mr. Trump's recently opened wound.

The U.S. is slowly returning to the boredom with elections that was apparent before the Trump-Harris debate. The climatic end is over three weeks away and newscasters are doing their best to keep the nation's interest alive. That is probably why the supporting cast is centre stage. But before you switch off the lights, take a peek. Mr. Trump can pull out a late-night surprise.

The complex process of restoring lakes

Policymakers are setting unrealistic expectations for lake restoration efforts

STATE OF PLAY

Priyanka Jamwal
Hymavathi P.

A recent report by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) stated that not one lake of the 110 lakes it studied in Bengaluru meets potable water quality standards.

Potable water is water that is safe for human consumption – i.e., water that can be used for drinking or cooking. Safe water means it contains no toxins, carcinogens, pathogenic microorganisms, or other health hazards.

Achieving potable water quality in lakes means that the water must meet the highest quality standards. Rainwater, often considered the purest form of water, becomes contaminated once it contacts the atmosphere. As it moves across natural and man-made surfaces, especially in urban areas, it picks up minerals, chemicals, and pollutants. Even if wastewater is prevented from entering water bodies and only runoff is allowed, the lakes will still not meet potable water quality standards. Additionally, the stagnant nature of lake water leads to biochemical processes that further degrade its quality.

Lakes in Bengaluru receive water from three main sources: treated/partially treated wastewater from sewage treatment plants; rainwater mixed with sewage, also known as combined sewer overflows (CSOs) via storm water drains; and raw sewage from open storm water drains. Given the nature of the inflows, is it reasonable to expect potable water in lakes?

Reducing pollutants in wastewater and storm water runoff comes at a significant

cost. Treating 1 million litres of wastewater to meet secondary treatment standards costs approximately ₹1 crore with reoccurring operation and maintenance costs. Most restoration projects focus on deploying sewage treatment plants and supplementing treatment by channelling secondary treated effluent into constructed wetlands. Additionally, during the rainy season, CSOs are managed through diversion channels that allow excess water to flow into the lakes. To further improve the quality, sedimentation ponds are constructed near the CSO outlets.

The KSPCB study revealed that all the 110 lakes fall only under the categories of D (lake water suitable for wildlife propagation and fisheries) and E (water suitable for irrigation, industrial cooling, or controlled waste disposal). In simpler terms, none of them are fit for swimming (B), nor can they be used as a source of potable water, either with treatment (C) or without (A).

One crucial point to note is that the biological oxygen demand (BOD) level required to move from category E or D to category C is 3mg/l. This means that if the water quality falls under categories D or E, any incremental reduction in BOD levels as a result of restoration efforts may not be reflected in the broad ranges used to categorise lake quality. For instance, if the BOD level in a lake is 30 mg/l and restoration efforts reduce it to 15 mg/l, the lake will still be in category D or E, which misleadingly suggests no progress. Additionally, the lack of ambient standards for nutrients, such as nitrogen, further limits the ability to evaluate the impact of interventions on surface water quality.

The right way to approach restoration is to therefore set the right expectations with stakeholders. First, we need to identify the nature of the problem. Second, we need to prioritise the issues to be addressed with inputs from stakeholders. Third, we need to conduct comprehensive baseline assessments clearly stating the challenges. Fourth, based on available funds, we need to estimate the levels of improvement that are achievable. Finally, we need to set realistic expectations with the stakeholders and devise an exit strategy to ensure the sustainability of interventions throughout the design period.

The success of restoration efforts should not be assessed based on lakes meeting the potable water standards but by the tangible improvements in water quality, biodiversity, and the livelihoods of local communities. Lake restoration is a complex process. With proper planning, phased targets, and collaboration, we can make progress in rejuvenating lakes in urban landscapes – not necessarily to the point where they provide drinkable water, but where they become vibrant, healthy ecosystems that benefit the environment and the people.

Priyanka Jamwal is Senior Fellow and Hymavathi P. is Senior Research Associate and Project Manager, both at the Water and Society programme, Centre for Environment and Development, ATREE

Nations with mineral reserves needed for energy transition

Reserves are known and assessed mineral deposits that can be mined economically

DATA POINT

Our World In Data

The world's energy system is mainly powered by fossil fuels. The transition to a low-carbon one will shift its underpinnings away from coal, oil, and gas to the minerals needed for solar, wind, nuclear, and other technologies. Which countries have such mineral reserves that can be mined? Below we explain the importance of each mineral. The graphic shows the share of the world's reserves in each country.

Bauxite: Primary source of aluminum. Essential for wind turbines, solar panels, batteries, electrolyzers, and transmission cables.

Chromium: Key for geothermal and concentrated solar power. Used in wind turbines, and for radiation shielding in nuclear power plants.

Cobalt: Used in consumer electronics, catalysts for the oil industry, resistant metal alloys, critical components in many lithium-ion battery technologies.

Copper: Critical element in solar photovoltaics, wind power, battery storage, and electricity grids.

Graphite: Key component of battery anodes and therefore important for the transition to electric vehicles, and stationary batteries for balancing electricity grids.

Lithium: Core component of lithium-ion batteries.

Manganese: Widely used in solar and wind power, and in lithium-ion batteries for electric cars.

Molybdenum: Has a very high electrical conductivity but expands little when exposed to heat.

Nickel: Key component in the cathodes of lithium-ion batteries in electric cars.

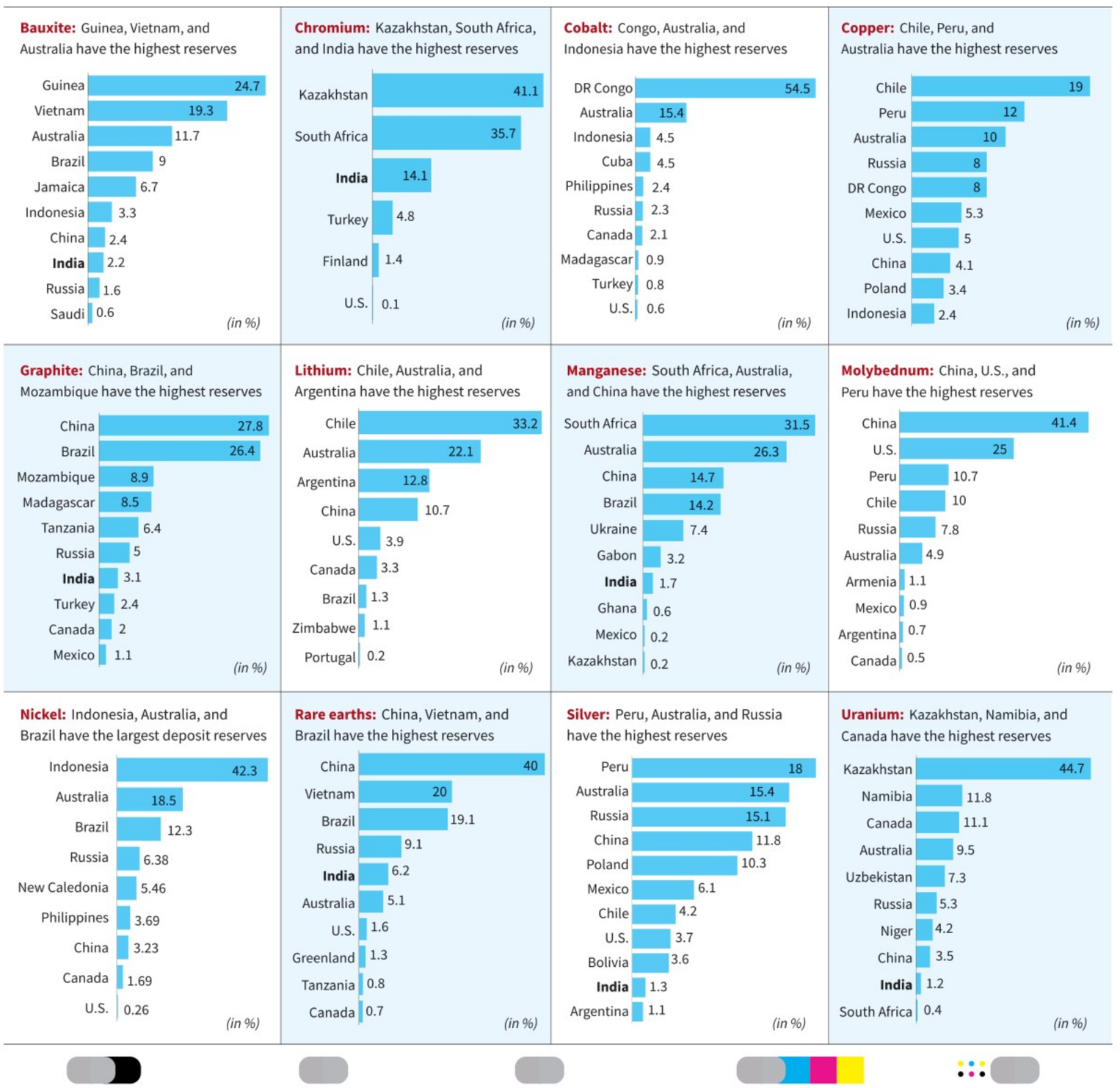
Rare earths: Used in wind power for permanent magnets.

Silver: It's most important role in clean energy is in solar photovoltaics and electric vehicles.

Uranium: Primary fuel for nuclear energy production.

Minerals for a clean and green future

The data for the charts were sourced from Our World in Data. The data shows the reserves as a share of the global total as of 2023



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 8, 1974

Bulgaria to grant fresh credit to India

New Delhi, Oct. 7: Bulgaria has agreed to further extend unutilised financial credit given to India and also grant fresh credit for developmental purposes on certain terms.

This announcement was made by Mr. Toncho Chakarov, Bulgarian Minister for Machine Building and Metallurgy, at the first meeting of the Indo-Bulgarian Joint Commission which opened here to-day.

Mr. Chakarov said Bulgaria would do its best to increase its economic co-operation with India. Some of the fields where India could cooperate with Bulgaria, he said, were computer technology, agriculture, electronics, wagon building and metal cutting, and chemicals and pharmaceuticals.

The Bulgarian Minister said his country was also prepared to sign a protocol to cooperate with India in the field of science and technology. This subject could provide a good base for the current negotiations.

The Industrial Development Minister, Mr. C. Subramaniam, who led the Indian delegation, announced the establishment of five working groups on food processing, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, machine-building and heavy industry, and electronics. These working groups would identify specific areas of collaboration between the two countries.

Mr. Subramaniam hoped the present exchanges in the field of science and technology would lead to the signing of an agreement on the subject.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 8, 1924

Gandhiji breaks his great fast

Delhi, October 8: Mahatma Gandhi broke his fast at 12-30 punctually. There was a very large gathering including Messrs. Das, Nehru, Azad, Hakimji, the Ali Brothers, Jawaharlal, Mrs. Nehru, Mrs. Mahomed Ali, Swami Shraddhanandji and others.

After Koranic and Vedic hymns and devotional music, Gandhiji addressed a few words in low voice saying that with his fast his peace was coming to a close.

The fast was broken with orange juice which was very slowly taken in. When water was given afterwards he exclaimed, "A second course." About quarter of an orange was taken.

From Page One

Parties gear up for poll verdict in J&K, Haryana

However, NC vice president Omar Abdullah, in a post on X, said: "They (PDP or Independents) haven't extended support. They haven't offered support and we don't know what the voters have decided yet. So, I really wish we could put a lid on all this premature speculation for the next 24 hours."

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader Iltija Mufti, daughter of party president Mehbooba Mufti, urged the middle-rung party leaders to refrain from commenting on the post-poll alliance. "Unnecessary speculations, let me put the record straight. PDP's senior leadership will take a call on extending support to a secular front only once the results are out. This is our official stand," she said.

If numbers elude the parties, the J&K election results could head for a legal battle.

While BJP leaders suggested that the J&K Lieutenant Governor (L-G) could nominate five MLAs from its party, Mr. Abdullah said it was for the elected government to nominate five MLAs.

According to Section 15 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the L-G can nominate two women to the Assembly "if in his opinion, women are not adequately represented in the Legislative Assembly". The Act was amended in 2023 to insert sub-clauses 15A and 15B to nominate two members from the Kashmiri migrants and one member from displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Urging the L-G to stay away from such a nomination exercise, Mr. Abdullah said: "What they want to do, I do not know. However, if they do it, we will go to the Supreme Court. What is the point in making the government, if the Lord Sahib remains here? We have to fight against all this".

Ms. Iltija Mufti, in a post on X, said, "All of the five MLAs nominated by LG are BJP members or associated with the party. Brazen pre result rigging & shameful manipulation. Might as well have nominated all 90 members instead. Why even hold elections? 1987s stolen election took J&K to the brink. Yet no lessons learnt?"

Congress slams PM over 'delay' in Census

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the "delay" in the Census, and asserted that it is only through a caste count that full and meaningful social, economic, and political justice can be ensured in education and employment.

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said that in the midst of its political transition and economic turmoil, Sri Lanka has just announced that its latest Population and Housing Census – last done in 2012 – will begin on Monday.

"What about India? The decennial Census was due in 2021. There is still no sign of it happening," Mr. Ramesh said in a post on X.

Over 10 crore Indians are being denied benefits under the National Food Security Act, 2013 or PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana because still the 2011 Census enumeration is being used, he said.

And what about the integrating questions on caste in the Census, as is being demanded by Congress and other political parties, he asked.

AIIMS doctors do autopsy on Bengal minor rape victim

Post-mortem was conducted at the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Hospital; HC on Sunday had directed Bengal police to add Sections of POCSO Act

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The post-mortem examination of a nine-year-old girl who was allegedly raped and murdered at Jaynagar in West Bengal was completed at the College of Medicine and Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Hospital in Kalyani on Monday.

The autopsy was conducted between noon and 3 p.m. by physicians of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalyani, after the body was taken to the JNM Hospital from the Katapukur morgue in Kolkata in the morning.

The body of the girl was found in a ditch in the Mahishmari area of Jaynagar in the early hours of Saturday.

'Technical difficulties'

While hearing the petition filed by the victim's parents on Sunday, Justice Tirthankar Ghosh of the Calcutta High Court directed that the post-mortem examination be conducted at the AIIMS. The court further directed that in case of technical difficulties at the AIIMS, the post-mortem examination should be conducted at the JNM Hospital.

On vigil: Police and paramilitary personnel outside the College of Medicine & JNM Hospital in Nadia, West Bengal, on Monday. ANI

The girl's father had requested that the post-mortem examination be conducted at a hospital supervised and controlled by the Union government. The police were also directed by the court to add relevant Sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act to the case and transfer the records to the special POCSO court in Baruipur.

"This court, *prima facie*, is of the opinion that at the initial stage of investigation prior to the post-mortem examination having been conducted, the inquest report suggests acts of sexual offences being committed upon the person of the deceased, so appropriate provisions of law under relevant statutes should have been incorporated by the investigating agency," the High Court said.

Left-wing extremism is on its last legs, says Shah at review meet

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amit Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday that so far 14 top Naxal leaders had been killed and left-wing extremism was on its last legs. The Minister said that LWE violence was restricted to 16 districts now, compared with 96 districts earlier. The number of police stations reporting violence had also come down to 171 from 465.

He said the success was the result of joint efforts of all the States and the Union government.

Mr. Shah said that by March 2026, with everyone's cooperation, the country would be completely free from this decades-old menace. "Eighty-five per cent of the LWE cadre strength in Chhattisgarh has been eliminated, and now the need is to deliver a final blow to Naxalism," he said.

The Union Minister chaired a review meeting with the Chief Ministers of LWE-affected States on Monday. While Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Telangana were represented by their Chief Ministers, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh were represented by their Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister, respectively.

Mr. Shah praised the Chhattisgarh government for its success in combating Naxalism. "Since January 2024, a total of 237 Naxalites have been killed, 812 arrested, and 723 have surrendered in Chhattisgarh. I appeal to the youth involved in Naxalism to abandon the path of violence and join the mainstream of society to contribute to the country's development," he said.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai told reporters that his government was studying the Assam government's policy on surrendered insurgents before finalising a fresh rehabilitation document for surrendered Naxal cadres in the State. "We are considering allotment of houses under PM-Awas Yojana to the surrendered Naxalites," Mr. Sai said.

India signs a currency swap pact with Maldives

There was no mention of the return of Indian military personnel to the archipelago, however, a subject that had led to tension between New Delhi and Male, until India agreed to withdraw them and replace them with technical personnel in May 2023. When asked, Mr. Misri said the issue had been "resolved satisfactorily" and did not require revisiting as technical staff were now completing the work of aircraft maintenance.

He clarified that the refit of the Maldivian Coast Guard ship *Huravee* would be carried out at an Indian facility. This will not require Indian personnel to travel to the Maldives.

"India has always been a First Responder for the Maldives," Mr. Modi said in a press statement after the talks. "India has always fulfilled its duties as a neighbour," he added, referring to the supply of essential commodities during a crisis, and vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Addressing the media later, Mr. Misri said that India had played a "historic" role in the Maldives, including thwarting a coup there in 1988, and sending emergency assistance after the tsunami in 2004. He referred to India's latest currency swap arrangement as a way of sending out a "signal of comfort and confidence in the existing foreign exchange position" for the Maldives, which had reached record lows of $440 million, far below its pending outflows.

Mr. Muizzu's visit, his first bilateral trip to India, comes eight months after a visit to Beijing, which resulted in a number of other agreements; an economic pact to boost Chinese investments and provide currency swap arrangements; a defence pact; and debt repayment waiver for five years. Sidestepping questions about the Maldives-China relationship, particularly the defence agreement signed in March this year, Mr. Misri said while they had discussed some "regional" issues, the "focus was on discussing bilateral relations today".

(*With inputs from Meera Srinivasan in Colombo*)

Rajnath flags arming of civilian products, calls for in-depth study

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rajnath Singh

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday underlined the increasing use of new technologies in modern-day conflicts, in addition to conventional arms and ammunition. He said many dual-use items, and even purely civilian goods, were being deployed in the battlefield.

"They [civilian/commercial goods] are being armed. We will have to understand this in-depth," Mr. Singh said while speaking at DefConnect 4.0, a Defence Ministry event. His comments come against the backdrop of Israel weaponising pagers to target Hezbollah. He also launched the second edition of "Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX" (ADITI 2.0) scheme and the 12th edition of the Defence India Start-up Challenges (DISC-12) during DefConnect.

Identifying "lack of private participation in the defence sector" as a major hurdle in attaining self-reliance in the past, Mr. Singh said, "There were two major dimensions of self-reliance in the defence sector. First was the manufacturing of arms/equipment, where technology was available but there was a lack of production capacity. Second was catering to the needs of high-technology applications in view of the constantly-changing nature of warfare."

He said earlier, only in-house research and development organisations like the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) were working towards the development of such cutting-edge technologies. But now, we are witnessing a significant role of the private sector too.

Head of Ladakh Buddhist Association says protest will go on till demands are met

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Chering Dorjay Lakrook

The Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA), an influential religious body in Ladakh, said on Monday that it was ready to protest for another 15 years, if necessary, if the demand on constitutional safeguards was not met.

LBA president Chering Dorjay Lakrook said in an interview to *The Hindu* that any adverse action against climate activist Sonam Wangchuk had consequences in Ladakh. After his detention by the Delhi Police on September 30, people had resorted to stone-pelting and stopped traffic in Ladakh, causing inconvenience to tourists.

Mr. Wangchuk and 20 volunteers have been sitting on an indefinite hunger strike, surviving on salt and water at the Ladakh Bhavan in Delhi since Sunday after he failed to get an audience with the Prime Minister, Home Minister, or the President of India.

Mr. Wangchuk, who along with 150 people from Ladakh had set out on a foot march from Leh on September 1, was detained by the police as the contingent reached the Delhi boundary on September 30.

After remaining in detention for five days, Mr. Wangchuk was released on October 6.

Mr. Lakrook is also the co-convener of the Leh Apex Body (LAB), a civil society organisation, which along with the the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), has been protesting for the past four years seeking Statehood, inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution (tribal status for Ladakh), employment opportunities for the local people, and a Rajya Sabha seat and a Lok Sabha seat each for the two regions.

"The arrest of Sonam Wangchuk could lead to law and order problems. After Mr. Wangchuk was detained in Delhi, people reacted spontaneously and there was a law and order problem here. A call was given to stop vehicles from plying and when somebody tried to go against it, stones were pelted and vehicles were damaged but our volunteers controlled the situation. The tourist season is going on, the government should not do anything adverse," Mr. Lakrook, a former member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), said.

He said Mr. Wangchuk was ready to sit on a fast for 28 days but would call it off if the government invited the high-powered committee for talks in the next few days.

"We are prepared for a long haul, the struggle may continue for 10-15 years," he added.

One dies after rape accused shoots family of the survivor

The Hindu Bureau
BHOPAL

A 24-year-old man, accused of raping a minor girl in Madhya Pradesh's Chhatarpur, on Monday allegedly shot at the survivor and her family members, killing her grandfather and injuring the girl and another person, the police said.

According to the police, a case had been lodged against the accused, Bhola Ahirwar, a neighbour of the survivor, in August for allegedly raping the 17-year-old girl and he had been absconding ever since. The case was filed at the Civil Lines police station and a search was on for him. A reward of ₹20,000 had also been announced on him.

"On Monday morning, the accused arrived at the girl's house and shot at the family members after a while," the police said.

Chhatarpur Superintendent of Police Aman Mishra said the accused had been pressurising the girl's family to take back the case and settle the matter.

Chargesheet filed in R.G. Kar rape, murder case

The accused, a civic police volunteer, was arrested by the Kolkata Police before the CBI took over the investigation in the case.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud was also monitoring the investigation in the case and had issued a series of directives to both the Union government and West Bengal administration. The CBI has submitted a progress report on the case to the Supreme Court.

The CBI, however, has arrested five others in various other aspects relating to the case, including Sandip Kumar Ghosh, the former principal of the State-run health facility, and Abhijit Mondal, former officer-in-charge of Tala police station, for tampering with evidence in connection with the rape and murder. The agency is simultaneously probing the financial irregularities at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital and five persons including Mr. Ghosh have been arrested.

Resident doctors of State-run hospitals continued their fast-unto-death for the third consecutive day on Monday. They announced plans for a rally in the city from College Square to Esplanade around 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday to push for their demands.

Lalu and sons granted bail in land-for-jobs scam case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday granted bail to Rashtriya Janata Dal leader (RJD) leader Lalu Prasad and eight other accused, including his sons Tej Pratap and Tejashwi Yadav, in a money laundering case linked to the land-for-jobs 'scam'.

Special Judge Vishal Gogne of the Rouse Avenue Court granted bail on bonds of ₹1 lakh each and noted they were not arrested during the investigation of the case. The matter has been listed for further hearing on October 25.

Six workers killed in blast at coal mine in Bengal

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Six persons were killed and three injured when explosives kept in a truck went off at a coal mine in Birbhum district of West Bengal on Monday.

The explosion took place at the Gangaramchak and Gangaramchak-Bhadulia coal mine in Khoyrasole block under Lokpur police station.

The coal mine has been allotted to the West Bengal Power Development Corporation Ltd., a power utility operated by the State government. The mine was reopened in April 2019.

The persons killed in the explosion were workers deployed for mine operations by a private operator. The blast occurred in the dump yard of the captive coal mine.

In bad fate: Relatives of victims mourn after a blast occurred at a coal mine in Birbhum district of West Bengal on Monday. PTI

Volatile situation

The situation in the area adjoining the coal mine remained volatile after the blast, with local people reportedly preventing the police from removing the bodies. The police later collected the bodies. A forensic team will conduct an investigation into the cause of the blast.

Local people said that the explosives used for coal extraction were transported in a single truck on Monday, unlike the usual practice of using two trucks.

Probe sought

West Bengal Chief Secretary Manoj Pant said it was a big loss and the government was trying to help the bereaved families. "Though death cannot be compensated, WBPDCL will provide ₹30 lakh to the kin of deceased and an additional ₹2 lakh from the State government [will be given]. One member of the family will be provided job as Home Guard," Mr. Pant said.

The Chief Secretary added that six bodies were recovered from the site. Of the three injured, two were stable.

Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari sought an investigation to find out if any laxity led to the blast and fix the responsibility accordingly.

He pointed out that the National Investigation Agency (NIA) was already investigating a case related to 81,000 gelatin sticks and detonators being recovered from the Mohammad Bazar area in Birbhum district, adding that and any connection between the two incidents should also be probed.

BJP MLA Anup Saha, said that the explosive materials were unloaded from the truck without proper precautions.

BJP attempting to subvert verdict of people in J&K: Cong.

It is playing desperate games to engineer a majority, says Jairam; misuse of Centre's powers to alter mandate will not be tolerated, says Venugopal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day before the announcement of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly election results, the Congress on Monday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party of trying to "subvert" the verdict of the people in the Union Territory.

"There is a clear danger to the people's mandate in J&K. The INC-NC [Congress-National Conference] alliance is on the way to a historic victory, but the BJP is not ready to digest the democratic verdict and is planning to subvert this through any and all means available at its disposal," Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said in a post on X on Monday.

"We are vigilant to all their dirty tricks and will not let them hijack our democracy. The misuse of institutions and the Centre's powers to alter the mandate will not be tolerated," Mr. Venugopal added.

While a majority of the exit polls on Saturday gave an edge to the Congress-NC alliance, the lower end of seat projection point to the possibility of a hung Assembly. The Congress dismissed such a scenario.

Walking the beat: Security personnel checking the area around a counting centre in Srinagar on Monday. PTI

'Imminent defeat'

"Facing imminent defeat, the BJP is playing desperate games to engineer a majority and hoping for a hung Assembly to aid them in their subterfuge. They know that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have given a clear mandate to the Congress-National Conference (NC) alliance," Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X.

"To undo this democratic process, they have resorted to the old ways of their self-proclaimed bogus 'Chanakya-niti'. We have clear information and basis to say that malicious steps are being taken through a colourable and malafide exercise of power to negate the people's verdict in favour of the INC-NC alliance in J&K. We will do everything in our power to thwart such nefarious designs," Mr. Ramesh alleged.

J&K Congress chief Tariq Hamid Karra has said the alliance will get a "comfortable majority", and added that the doors are open for like-minded parties and individuals to keep the BJP out of power.

Won't rest till goal of 'Viksit Bharat' is realised: Modi on completing 23 years in public office

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Expressing gratitude to all those who congratulated him on completing 23 years in public office, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said though much had been achieved over the years, there was still more to be done and that he would not rest till the collective goal of a developed India was realised.

"...the learnings over these 23 years enabled us to come up with pioneering initiatives which have made an impact both nationally and globally. I assure my fellow Indians that I will keep working tirelessly, with even more vigour in service of the people. I will not rest till our collective goal of a Viksit Bharat is realised," he said in a post on X.

Recounting that on October 7, 2001, he became the Chief Minister of Gujarat for the first time, Mr. Modi said it was his party's greatness that the task was given to a humble worker. When he assumed office, the State was facing numerous challenges, he said.

"Powered by *Jana Shakti*, we rebuilt Gujarat and propelled it to new heights of progress, even in a sector like agriculture, for which the State was not traditionally known," he said.

Narendra Modi

Mr. Modi said during his 13 years as Chief Minister, Gujarat emerged as a shining example of "*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas*".

In 2014, the people of India "blessed the BJP with a record mandate", enabling him to serve as Prime Minister.

"Over the past decade, we have been able to address several challenges our nation faces. Over 25 crore people have been freed from the clutches of poverty. India has become the fifth largest economy and this has particularly helped our MSMEs, start-ups sector and more. New avenues of prosperity have opened for our hard-working farmers, Nari Shakti, Yuva Shakti, and the poor as well as marginalised sections of society," he said.

Mr. Modi said India's developmental strides had ensured that the country was being viewed with utmost optimism globally.

The BJP congratulated Mr. Modi saying that for over two decades he has selflessly prioritised the nation, working tirelessly without any vacation, ushering in unprecedented development.

Union Minister Amit Shah said: "This 23-year long journey is a living inspiration for those living a social life. It is a matter of good fortune for me that I have been a witness to this journey of Modi*ji*."

BJP chief J.P. Nadda said Mr. Modi's commitment to the upliftment of the poor and deprived sections with the mantra of "Antyodaya" was exemplary.

'MVA has reached consensus on over 240 seats'

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

The constituents of the Maha Vikas Aghadi – the Congress, the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) and the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) – have almost finalised a seat-sharing deal for the Maharashtra Assembly election, sources told *The Hindu* on Monday.

Notably, the alliance partners have decided that the MVA will not project any Chief Minister face for the election. Of the 288 Assembly seats, consensus has been achieved on over 240.

The alliance will not project any Chief Minister face for the Assembly election, say sources

"We primarily discussed Marathwada and Vidarbha today. Over 120 seats were discussed. There is consensus on them. The strategy is to decide on a seat-to-seat basis," a senior leader who was present during the talks, told *The Hindu*.

Another leader said that the parties also held discussions on the smaller parties such as the Republican Party splinters, Left parties and the Samajwadi Party, which have demanded over 40 seats. "Many of them are long associations. We had accommodated them during the Lok Sabha polls as well. We want to take everyone together with us," a senior leader said.

"Our talks were positive today," Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole told presspersons after the meeting.

The parties moved ahead on their discussion on the seats in Marathwada and Vidarbha. All the three parties have staked claim to some of the seats in the regions. There was a deadlock on the seats last week. Today, consensus was achieved on some of these seats, sources said.

In view of the recent electoral performance, the Congress wants to contest key seats from Vidarbha. But both Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) have staked claim to some of them. There were differences over seats in Marathwada as well.

Meanwhile, there are differences on a handful seats. The decision on those seats will be taken only by the top leaders of the three parties. At present, the talks are being held between the State presidents and key leaders of all the three parties.

Defer govt. formation till Statehood is restored: Rashid to J&K parties

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir witnessed political drama just a day ahead of the counting of votes on Monday following a demand made by Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) chief Engineer Rashid on all parties over Statehood.

The National Conference (NC) and Congress questioned Mr. Rashid's move.

Mr. Rashid, MP, urged all political parties in Jammu and Kashmir to join ranks and "refrain from taking the Oath of Office or forming a government until the region's Statehood is restored".

"The restoration of Statehood is vital for the dignity and rights of the people of J&K. Until that is achieved, I appeal to all political parties – National Conference (NC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), People's Conference (PC), Apni Party, ANC, and others – to unite, at least on the issue of Statehood. Let us send a message to the Centre that no one will form a government or support any government until Statehood is restored," Mr. Rashid said.

Political issue: Awami Ittehad Party chief Engineer Rashid addressing a press conference in Srinagar on Monday. IMRAN NISSAR

His proposition, however, failed to evoke a positive response from key regional parties. Both the NC and Congress questioned his move. The PDP remained silent.

"The man goes to Delhi for 24 hours and comes back to play straight into the hands of the BJP. The BJP would like nothing more than to extend Central rule in J&K if they are not in a position to form a government," NC vice-president Omar Abdullah said in a post on social media platform X.

Meanwhile, J&K Apni Party leader G.H. Mir seconded Mr. Rashid.

"J&K's political parties should focus on pushing for the restoration of Statehood before thinking about forming a government. Without Statehood, the J&K Assembly will be powerless," the J&K Apni Party leader said.

SC helps woman sarpanch in Maharashtra fight prejudice

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A Bench of Justice Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan gave the court's powerful backing to a panchayat sarpanch in Maharashtra to continue with her good work.

"This is a classic case where the residents of the village could not reconcile with the fact that the appellant, being a woman, was nevertheless elected to the office of the sarpanch of their village. They were perhaps further unable to come to terms with the reality that a female sarpanch would make decisions on their behalf and they would have to abide by her directions," the Supreme Court said in a recent order.

Manisha Ravindra Panpatil had won the election to the Vichkheda panchayat in Jalgaon district from the seat reserved for women in February 2021.

Discrimination against women in public office has become somewhat of a norm, says court

Some of her detractors accused her of encroaching on government land and living in a house in it with her mother-in-law. They sought her disqualification. The sarpanch said she lived in rented accommodation with her husband and children. But the District Collector summarily disqualified her as sarpanch. The order was confirmed by the Divisional Commissioner. Ms. Patil lost her case in the Bombay High Court, only to take the fight to the top court.

The Supreme Court, in its order, observed that instances such as the bias that Ms. Patil had to deal with at the grassroots level cast a heavy shadow over the country's efforts to have more women elected representatives.

"The matter of removal of an elected public representative should not be treated so lightly, especially when it concerns women belonging to rural areas. It must be acknowledged that these women who succeed in occupying such public offices, do so only after significant struggle," the court observed.

It said that discrimination against women in public office had become "somewhat of a norm".

The Supreme Court set aside the High Court order of August 3 and allowed Ms. Patil to continue as sarpanch.

BJP chief meets Maldives President

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party president, J.P. Nadda, on Monday met the President of the Maldives, Mohamed Muizzu, as part of the "Know BJP" initiative.

"Met and interacted with the President of Maldives, Dr. Mohamed Muizzu, in New Delhi as part of the 'Know BJP' initiative. We had insightful exchanges to solidify our party-to-party ties, exchange of delegations of party leaders and enhance mutual understanding," said Mr. Nadda on X.

"Our discussions about strengthening ties between India and Maldives reflect a shared vision for a strong partnership that promotes collaboration," the BJP leader added.

ओएनजीसी ONGC
ऑयल एण्ड नेचुरल गैस कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.
Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI)
for Hiring of Helicopter Services at Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

ONGC intends to hire helicopter(s) services for starting its drilling operations at 3 locations of Port Blair at a distance of around 160-190 nm in Andaman Sea for a short duration of 9-12 months. The drilling operations shall be carried out at 3 locations by rig # DDKG-1. An EOI for above purpose is invited and a meeting/conference is scheduled to be held on **8th Floor, ONGC office, 11 high, at Mumbai** on **11.10.2024** at **11.00 AM.** in the form of physical or virtual mode. For further details of the EOI, please log on to ONGC e-tender website: **https://tenders.ongc.co.in** May reach us for any clarification at **singh_anupam@ongc.co.in**, **sarkar_pranab@ongc.co.in**

Advertisement No. 101/2024
Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of
Chairman & Managing Director
In
Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL)
Last date of submission of application by the applicant is by 15.00 hours on
29/10/2024
Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal officers to PESB is by 15.00 hours on
07/11/2024
For details login to website
https://pesb.gov.in

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.W.D. CIRCLE BANSWARA [RAJ.]
Address - Near Circuit House, Jaipur Road, Banswara (Raj.) 327001
E-Mail - piu_banswara@rediffmail.com
Phone - 02962-241808 sebanswara.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in
क्रमांक :-डी-733 दिनांक :-28.09.2024
NIB-PWD2425A1903
Notice Inviting Bid (01/2024-25)
Bids for Construction of Atal Pragati Path Road in District Banswara are invited from interested bidders from Dated 04-10-2024 9.30 am. to 24-10-2024 6.00 pm. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state. The approximate value of the procurement in Rs. 560.00 Lacs.
UBN 1- PWD2425WSOB06968 (Muneem Chand Meena)
2- PWD2425WSOB06969 Superintending Engineer
DIPR/C/9426/2024 P.W.D. Circle Banswara

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813/
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact number- 96461 47777)
TENDER ENQUIRY No TSQ-1164 / TD-I
Dy. CE/TL(Design), B-1 Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for carrying out survey, design, fabrication, testing, supply, laying of foundation, erection and commissioing of 66 KV monoplole line by augmenting the existing 66KV line from 66KV S/S Majra to 66KV S/S Mullanpur for providing connectivity to new grids under New Chandigarh Master Plan as per detailed scope mentioned in Part-6 of tender specification no. TSQ-1164. For detailed NIT and Tender Specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 07.10.2024 from 11.00 AM onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**
C - 764/24 76155/12/3527/2023/38222

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Regd. Office PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 | Website: www.pspcl.in
(Contact number 9646117607)
Tender Inquiry No. 80/CHP/OP-.322/GHTP/2024-25 Dated 04/10/2024
Dy. CE/MM-II/GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites E-tender for the work of following tenders:-
"Provide Assistance in operation of Bulldozers and Loco-Shunters at, GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat"
For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 04/10/2024, 17:00 PM onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**
GHTP - 83/24 76155/12/3526/2023/38220

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813/
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact number- 96461 47777)
OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY No TSQ-1161 / TD-II/2024-25
Dy. CE/TL(Design), B-1 Shakti Vihar, Patiala invites E-tenders for Manufacturing, Fabrication, Galvanization, Testing, Supply and Delivery of 3000 MT 66 kV Tower Material and Sub-Station Structures as per PSPCL Specification No. TSQ-1161/TD-II/2024-25. For detailed NIT and Tender Specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 07.10.2024 from 09.00 AM onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**
C - 763/24 76155/12/3524/2023/38218

इसरो ISRO
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE,
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO)
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
ISRO-TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC)
Plot No.12 & 13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560 058. Fax:080-28094180,
Ph:080-280904178 / 4541
BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE
1. On behalf of President of India, **item rate E-Tender** is invited from Contractors of appropriate class for the following works

NIT No.	**ISTRAC/CMG/MECH/CON/E-Tender-50/ 2024-2025 Dated: 07.10.2024.**
Name of Work	**Replacement of 04 Nos Passenger Lifts at 3D & 2E Block DOS ISRO Housing Colony Jalahalli and 01 No of Passenger Lift at Anthariksh Apartment, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru.**
Estimate cost put to tender	**Rs. 104.28 Lakhs**
Tender Document details	**E-Tender**
Period of completion	**Six (06) Months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From 16.00 hrs. on 08.10.2024 to 05.11.2024 till 16.00 hrs.**
Bid clarifications	**From 11.00 hrs. on 09.10.2024 to 06.11.2024 till 16.00 hrs**
Last date of reply to Bid clarification	**07.11.2024 up to 16.00 hrs**
Last date & time of receipt of tenders	**08.11.2024 up to 16.00 hrs**
Due date and time of opening of tenders	**11.11.2024 after 11.00 hrs.**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 2,08,560.00**

2. Interested Tenderers may please refer **Detailed Notice Inviting Tender** (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.**
Sd/- Group Head,CMG

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, (PC-5), Annex-2 Building, Ground Floor, BBMP Head Office Premises
N.R Square, Bengaluru - 560 002
No: EE(PC-5)/TEND/03/2024-25 Date:07.10.2024
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
The Executive Engineer, Project-Central-5, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the construction of New works detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the work
1.	Construction of Bridge on the Upstream Side of Outlet No.2 located on the North Eastern Side of the Madiwala Tank Bund Road, Bengaluru. **Amount put to Tender: ₹4,84,79,726/- EMD: ₹4,84,79,726/- (Rs.1.00 Lakh through e-Proc & Rs.3,84,79,726/- through Bank Guarantee)**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tenders must be submitted online through kpp portal on or before **28.10.2024** at **5:30** pm. (2) Last Date for Receipt of queries is **15.10.2024** upto **5:30** pm. (3) Pre Tender Meeting will be held on **16.10.2024** at **4:00** pm in the Office of the Chief Engineer (Project Central), 4th Floor, Annex-3 Building, BBMP Head Office, Bengaluru-560002 (4) Technical Bids will be opened on **29.10.2024** at **5:30** pm. (5) Financial Bids will be opened after the approval of Technical Bid from Competent Authority. **Sd/- Executive Engineer Project Central-5**

INBRIEF

Nutrition support for TB patients hiked to ₹1,000

The Union Health Ministry on Monday doubled the monthly nutrition support under the Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana for tuberculosis patients under treatment from ₹500 to ₹1,000. Additionally, all household contacts of TB patients will be covered under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan and will be eligible to receive social support from the community. The Ministry has introduced Energy Dense Nutrition Supplementation for all patients with BMI less than 18.5 and has permitted the expansion of scope and coverage of Ni-kshay Mitra initiative under the Abhiyaan to family members (household contacts) of patients. All patients will now receive nutritional support of ₹3,000 to ₹6,000 under the Yojana.

NCERT, Amazon join hands to ensure textbook availability

The National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has tied up with Amazon Seller Services Pvt. Ltd., in a first of a collaboration, to ensure access to original NCERT textbooks at the printed price. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced that these books will be made available across nearly 20,000 pin codes nationwide. "NCERT will triple-fold publication of books and publish 15 crore books during the academic year 2025-26," he added.

DGCA bans some B-737s on low-visibility landing routes

Aviation regulator warns airlines of a faulty rudder component on these aircraft; directive comes after a loss-of-control incident involving a United Airlines flight reported in the U.S. in February

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has asked operators of Boeing 737 aircraft with a specific rudder part not to use the jets for low-visibility landings owing to a "possible risk of jamming". The directive is based on a loss-of-control incident involving a United Airlines flight in New Jersey, U.S., in February.

The advisory, which comes ahead of the fog season, is effective for Boeing 737 NG and MAX models, a senior DGCA official said.

The rudder in the tail section is used to control the yawing, or side-to-side movement of the nose of the aircraft. Air India Express has 61 Boeing 737s in service, Akasa Air 25 and SpiceJet 11. Air India Express said five aircraft on its fleet had the specific rudder part, while SpiceJet said none of its had the snag-prone component. Akasa Air did not reply to a query mailed to it.

The DGCA's advisory is specifically for the Collins Aerospace SVO-730 rudder actuator."All Category IIIB approach, landing, and rollout operations (including practice or actual autoland) must be discontinued for [these] airplanes until further notice," the DGCA has advised airlines.

Air India Express says five aircraft on its fleet have the specific rudder part mentioned in the DGCA advisory. FILE PHOTO

CAT IIIB approach is a precision aid used in low-visibility conditions and includes two radio beams which together provide pilots with both vertical and horizontal guidance during a landing. It can be used when the runway visibility range is less than 175 metres but not less than 50 metres.

The DGCA has asked airlines to carry out a safety risk assessment, inform crew about the possibility of a jammed rudder actuator, include discussion about the potential rudder control system and conduct practice sessions involving mitigation measures during trainings.

"We have initiated the process of compliance in adherence to the regulatory requirements," an Air India Express spokesperson said.

The rudder rollout guidance actuator, which is installed in the tail of some B-737NG and 737MAX aircraft, is designed to control the rudder's movement during Category IIIB approach, landing and taxiing operations. Although it is not used in non-precision landings, the actuator remains mechanically engaged with the rudder system.

The DGCA caution follows a strongly worded letter from the U.S. accident investigation body, the National Transport Safety Board, to its aviation safety regulator, Federal Aviation Authority, last week, accusing the latter of not taking the issue of the rudder actuator malfunction seriously even six months after a preliminary report into the February incident when pilots complained of a problem with the rudder part while landing at the Newark Liberty International Airport, New Jersey.

On September 26, the NTSB said its investigators tested the rudder control components from that and another aircraft and found that in a cold environment, the actuators' function was "significantly compromised."

UGC to recognise 'outstanding' Ph.D. research with award

R. Sujatha
CHENNAI

A study by the UGC found that the overall admission for Ph.D. had grown at a rate of 10% annually

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has instituted a Ph.D. excellence citation to recognise original research work by scholars every year.

"The UGC took the decision in its October 3 meeting to recognise outstanding Ph.D. research work in Indian universities," UGC Chairman M. Jagadesh Kumar said. The guidelines will be released soon.

The decision was made based on a study by the UGC of Ph.D.s awarded between 2011 and 2018 which found that the overall admission had grown at a rate of 10% annually and the number of Ph.D. admissions doubled from 77,798 in 2010-11 to 1,61,412 in 2017-18, he said. Science (30%), engineering and technology (26%) and social sciences (12%) accounted for the largest pool of Ph.D.s awarded during the period.

For the award, State, Central, private and deemed universities, recognised under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act and accredited by NAAC, are eligible for participation.

For a Ph.D. thesis to be considered for the citation, the criteria include uploading the thesis on Inflibnet and the award of the degree, in accordance with UGC regulations, between January 1 and December 31 of the year in which it is recommended for recognition.

A university may nominate five theses, one each from five disciplines – sciences (including agricultural, medical sciences); engineering and technology; social sciences (including education and humanities), Indian languages, and commerce and management.

Two theses will be selected from each discipline for the award. The selection committee for the streams will be constituted by the UGC and each committee will select two candidates from their respective streams, Mr. Kumar said.

The UGC will call for nominations from universities in January and the awards will be distributed on September 5.

India slipped on academic freedom index over the past decade: report

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Over the past 10 years, India has plummeted on the academic freedom index ranks, according to the "Free to Think 2024" annual report published by the Scholars at Risk (SAR) Academic Freedom Monitoring Project.

SAR is a network of 665 universities across the globe, including Columbia University, Duke University, and New York University. The report has looked extensively at India, Afghanistan, China, Colombia, Germany, Hong Kong, Iran, Israel, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Russia, Turkiye, Sudan, Ukraine, the U.K. and the U.S., while documenting 391 attacks on higher education communities in 51 countries between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024.

JNU students' outfits have agitated against stringent measures such as penalising of protests in many areas of the campus. PTI

The report notes that India's academic freedom slipped from 0.6 points to 0.2 points from 2013 to 2023. "In India, the most pressing threats to the academic freedom of students and scholars included the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's efforts to exert political control and impose a Hindu nationalist agenda on universities and university policies limiting student protest," the report states.

According to the Academic Freedom Index, India now ranks as "completely restricted", its lowest score since the mid-1940s. The report highlights some instances of the Indian government putting in stringent measures on campuses.

Many restrictions

Both Jawaharlal Nehru University and South Asian University announced new policies restricting student expression. While JNU barred students from protesting near academic buildings, SAU barred students from protesting on campus at all.

The reporting period saw the BJP-led Union government battle with State governments over the control of higher education.

In Kerala, Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, an appointee of the Union government, fought with the State government over a legislative amendment that would have him replaced as the Chancellor of the State's universities.

In April 2024, the Kerala government filed an appeal in the Supreme Court against the action of President Droupadi Murmu withholding assent to the proposed amendment.

"Similar battles for control of higher education took place in other States, including Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Punjab," the report points out.

Ultra-processed, fast food leading cause of diabetes in India: study

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

A diet rich in "advanced glycation end products (AGEs)", which includes ultra-processed and fast food, is among the leading cause of India being the world's diabetic capital, notes a first-of-its-kind clinical trial finding published in the *International Journal of Food Sciences and Nutrition* recently.

AGEs are harmful compounds that are formed when sugars react with fats or proteins during high-temperature cooking, such as frying and roasting. They are directly linked to inflammation, a key factor behind diabetes.

The study was funded by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology.

The study found that low-AGE diets exhibited improvement in the insulin-sensitivity and reduction in the inflammatory levels compared to high-AGE diets. "The study revealed that low AGE diets could be a potential strategy to reduce diabetes risk," it said.

Having AGE-rich foods leads to inflammation in the body, says the study. GETTY IMAGES

Prevalence of diabetes, pre-diabetes, and obesity is on the rise globally, and in Asian Indians, there are currently 101 million individuals with diabetes. Earlier studies in the West have demonstrated an increased risk of chronic diseases due to the consumption of processed foods that are high in fat, sugar, salt, and AGEs.

The current study shows that the consumption of AGE-rich foods leads to inflammation in the body. "This is because glycation – a non-enzymatic chemical process in which a sugar molecule binds to a protein or lipid molecule – can result in harmful reactions in the body," notes the study.

It recommends that by following a low-AGE diet (fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat milk), overweight and obese individuals can reduce oxidative stress in their bodies, which refers to the imbalance of free radicals and antioxidants that results in inflammation and cell damage.

As part of the clinical trial, adults who are either overweight or obese but non-diabetic were divided into two groups. While one group was given a low-AGE diet for 12 weeks, the other was put on a high-AGE diet. At the end of 12 weeks, the researchers found that insulin sensitivity was significantly increased in the low-AGE diet group, compared with the high-AGE diet group. The low-AGE diet group also showed lowered risk of future type 2 diabetes.

Dr. V. Mohan, chairman, Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, which carried out the study, said, "By adopting healthier diets such as green leafy non starchy vegetables, fruits, boiled foods rather than fried ones and cutting down on bakery foods and sugary foods, one can have diets which are low in dietary AGEs and thus lower the risk of type 2 diabetes."

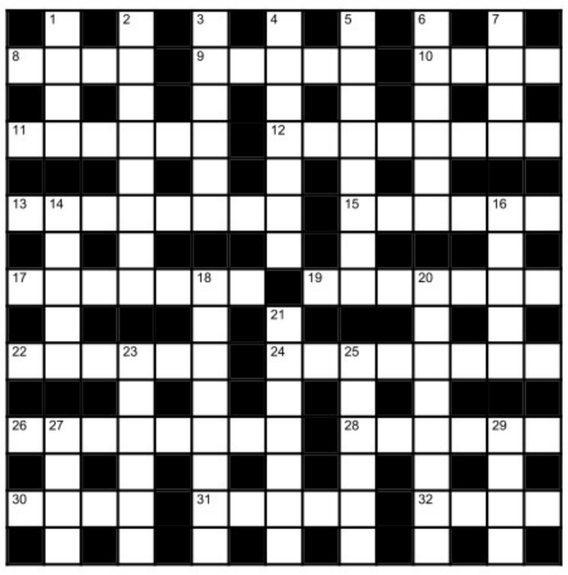
Dr. Mookambika Ramya Bai, the first author of the study, said, "It means going back to the healthier diets that our forefathers ate."

TH CROSSWORD + 14300

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Destroy discharge (4)
9 He took possession of paddle for a mercenary CA who lead a coup in Seychelles (5)
10 Endlessly erotic food (4)
11 Get man to make an attractive thing (6)
12 Arrange to carve small hams (8)
13 Itinerant Bihari went around east and then North Ireland in Roman times (8)
15 Disinter old ornithologist who founded the Congress party (6)
17 Man at Indore first gets unleavened bread (7)
19 Brother stuck amidst English yew might raise this in surprise (7)
22 Female on long narrow mountain top produces electrical kitchen equipment (6)
24 Counting frames from athletic club amidst insults (8)
26 Parting message in Japan, say, on half a dozen hermits initially leaving vihara (8)
28 Bat noise (6)
30 City in Manipur, India (4)
31 A herb concoction for de-addiction? (5)
32 Grandma eats a leavened bread (4)

Down

1 Mummy in custody of Alabama man (4)
2 Shivering, dip knees to a superficial level (4-4)
3 Horny substance? It is in the middle of a facial feature (6)
4 Fried food from Pakistan or any similar starters (7)
5 Counter in church yard burial ground (8)
6 Destroyed the war decoration made from plant materials (6)
7 Group protecting head of terrorists? Let it remain... (4)
14 Choir playing "Blood of the Gods"? (5)
16 Setter carries rings and pole for animal (5)
18 Rear half of dinosaur appears in the institute's books (8)
20 Healthy boy and nuncio jumping? Good! (8)
21 A traitor initially held in custody of father gets a kind of Indian bread (7)
23 Do visit doctor before operation by Indian (4,2)
25 Arrange a beer with love for organism requiring oxygen for life (6)
27 Be next to broken tuba (4)
29 Lane changing style (4)

SUDOKU

	8	7	2					
9	5		7				4	
2	1							6
3	6		1		2			
			9		4		8	5
8							7	4
	4				9		2	8
					1	5	6	

No.SS6304 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

		A		A		A				G				
P	E	T	E	R		L	I	M	A	B	E	A	N	
U		R		T		C		I		U		L		U
F	O	O	L	I	S	H		D	E	S	S	E	R	T
F		P		E		E				H		N		T
E	P	I	G	R	A	M		I	M	I	T	A	T	E
R		N				I		N		D				R
		E	X	P	O	S	I	T	I	O	N	S		
S				A		T		E				A		A
P	L	E	D	G	E	S		R	I	N	G	G	I	T
A		S		E				L		A		A		H
S	O	P	R	A	N	O		A	R	T	I	C	L	E
M		R		N		D		K		I		I		N
	D	I	A	T	R	I	B	E		O	A	T	H	S
		T				N		N		N		Y		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	1	9	6	7	5	4	8	3
6	8	5	4	3	1	9	2	7
3	4	7	9	8	2	5	1	6
5	2	8	1	9	7	3	6	4
7	9	6	2	4	3	1	5	8
1	3	4	8	5	6	7	9	2
9	5	3	7	6	8	2	4	1
8	7	1	5	2	4	6	3	9
4	6	2	3	1	9	8	7	5

FAITH

Navaratri chanting

During Navaratri, women chant the powerful Lalitha Sahasranamam, either individually or in groups, with complete devotion every day. For centuries, generations of women have followed this daily ritual of lighting the lamp and praying to Lalithambigai of Tirumeeyachur for Her grace and blessings as She is an embodiment of Lakshmi, Saraswati and Parvati, said P. Swaminathan in a discourse.

How did She manifest in Tirumeeyachur in Tiruvarur district of Tamil Nadu? The Sun God slighted his charioteer Arunan, due to which he lost his lustre, and the world its prosperity. When devotees prayed to Parvati for deliverance, She begged Siva to restore the Sun's brightness. Siva pointed out that the Sun had to repent for his arrogance for seven months. At the end of his penance, when he did not regain his glory, the Sun God complained bitterly, at which Parvati, exasperated with his prevailing ego, was about to curse him. Siva stepped in and suggested She reside in Tirumeeyachur to regain Her calm. When Her anger failed to subside, a devata arose from Her lips and rendered Lalitha Sahasranamam, appeasing the goddess.

Legend has it that Lalithambigai appeared in the dream of a devout woman in Karnataka and laughingly mentioned She lacked anklets. The devotee, wanting to remedy that, rushed to Tirumeeyachur but the priests informed her that the deity lacked provision for anklets. As she returned home disappointed, Lalithambigai again appeared in her dream. Simultaneously, the priests found that a provision for an anklet had mysteriously appeared on the deity. A true devotee is always cared for by Lalithambigai.

INBRIEF

Hero Motors withdraws ₹900-crore IPO papers

Hero Motors Ltd., the auto-components firm of the Hero Motors Company Group, has withdrawn its documents for an initial public offering (IPO) worth ₹900 crore, an update with SEBI showed on Monday. In its draft papers, the company had proposed to raise ₹500 crore via a fresh issuance of equity shares and an offer for sale of shares valued at ₹400 crore by promoters. Without disclosing the reason, the company said its "DRHP [was] withdrawn on October 5, 2024". PTI

Hitachi Energy plans ₹2,000 cr. investment in India in 4-5 years

Switzerland-based technology player Hitachi Energy said it plans to invest ₹2,000 crore over the next 4-5 years in India. The investments will be made towards expanding capacity of transformers, talent base and increasing portfolio, N. Venu, MD & CEO, India and South Asia, Hitachi energy India said. The investment will be made towards building capacity of large and small power transformers, and dry and traction transformers, he added. PTI

BoB ropes in Sachin Tendulkar as global brand ambassador

Bank of Baroda (BoB) signed Sachin Tendulkar as its global brand ambassador on Monday. "The partnership comes at an opportune time with the Bank poised to script the next phase of its transformation journey as it pursues a faster growth trajectory, leveraging Sachin's brand aura," the bank said. "Sachin is a global icon who has always led by example, inspiring us through his actions on and off the field," the bank's MD & CEO Debadatta Chand noted.

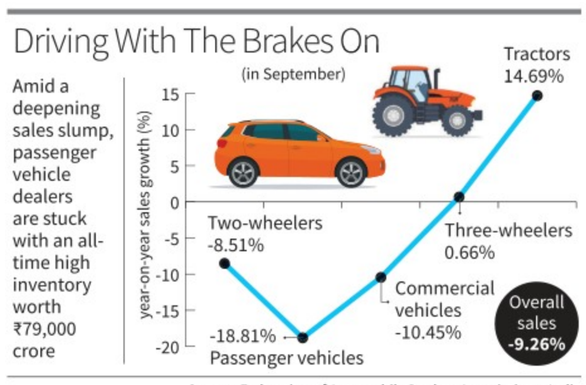
Auto retail sales slumped 9% in Sept.

Despite the onset of the festive season, automobile dealers reported largely-stagnant performance, overall market sentiment still underwhelming as passenger vehicle sales dropped for the fourth consecutive month

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Overall automobile retail sales in September witnessed a decline of 9.26% year-on-year (YoY), as per data released by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Association (FADA) on Monday.

Except for three-wheelers and tractors whose sales rose 0.66% and 14.69% YoY, respectively, categories such as two-wheelers, passenger vehicles (PVs) and commercial vehicles (CVs) slid by a sharp 8.51%, 18.81% (YoY) and 10.45%, respectively.



Source: Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations, India

"In the PVs category, sales plummeted by 10.8% MoM and 18.81% YoY, signalling an alarming trend of declining consumer demand and deteriorating market sentiment. This is the fourth consecutive month that PV sales slid.

"Despite the onset of festivals such as Ganesh Chaturthi and Onam, dealers reported the performance has been largely stagnant. This suggests overall market sentiment during the festive periods has been underwhelming, with a trend leaning towards flat or negative growth," said C. S. Vigneshwar, President, FADA.

"Discounts and offers have been introduced across segments to spur demand, but are yet to translate into a significant uptick in sales," he added.

The Finance Ministry, in its August monthly economic review, had also flagged incipient signs of strains in certain sectors."

"Data from Nielsen IQ indicated growth of fast-moving consumer goods sales in urban areas slowed in Q1FY25. While it may turn out to be transient with onset of the festival season, they warrant monitoring," the Ministry said.

FADA said PV dealers face all-time high inventory levels of 80-85 days, equivalent to 7.9 lakh vehicles worth ₹79,000 crore.

With *Navratri* and *Deepavali* falling in the same month and improved crop yields expected to lift sales, the high PV inventory levels pose a risk if October sales do not perk up, pressuring dealers and Original Equipment Manufacturers.

Retail inflation may have resurged over 5% in September, say economists

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's retail inflation may have spiked back over 5% in September, after two months under the central bank's median target of 4%, economists reckoned, as price pressures built up for some food items like vegetables and beneficial base effects from the high inflation last year have begun to dissipate.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had estimated inflation to average 4.4% in the July to September quarter, which implies a nearly 6% spike in consumer prices in September as the first two months registered an average inflation of just 3.62%.

"We expect headline inflation to rebound to 5.2% in September from 3.7% in August, reflecting an unfavourable base effect," Nomura economists Aurodeep Nandi and Sonal Varma said in a research note.

Food inflation momentum, particularly after excluding the volatile vegetables components, eased in September, they posited, projecting a moderation in food price rise in the second half of 2024-25.

"Alongside muted core inflationary pressures, we expect headline inflation to average 4.4% in FY25, marginally lower than the RBI's forecast of 4.5%," they averred.

Bank of Baroda economist Dipanwita Mazumdar said consumer prices are expected to rise about 5.1% in September, with risks tilted to the upside. The official inflation numbers for last month will be released on October 14. The bank's Essential Commodities Index, that tracks 20 vital items, had risen 4.7% in September from 3.1% in August, with tomatoes and onions seeing a sharp price gain of 16.6% and 53%, respectively.

"For onion, the increase is significant as it comes in the wake of an elevated base," Ms. Mazumdar noted, adding that a fresh harvest of the essential kitchen staple should enter the market from this month and cool some of the price pressure.

On a sequential basis, 15 of the 20 commodities tracked in the index saw an uptick in retail prices, which included edible oils, whose global prices have moved up.

Gold loans spiked 40.9% in August

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The growth in loans advanced by banks against gold doubled to 41% in August, bucking relatively subdued trends in personal and vehicle loans, according to the latest bank credit data from RBI.

"The recent surge in global gold prices will keep the demand buoyant in the coming months," said Bank of Baroda economist Jahnavi Prabhakar. RBI's recent curbs on lenders for inconsistencies and push for stronger controls in the segment could throttle growth to a certain extent, CareEdge Ratings said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	81,050	-0.78
US Dollar	84.00	-0.01
Gold	78,700	0.31
Brent oil	80.83	–

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3018.00	-92.65
Adani Ports	1355.20	-58.50
Apollo Hosp	6773.15	-0.45
Asian Paints	3062.25	-10.25
Axis Bank	1145.70	-32.70
Bajaj Auto	11617.05	-157.35
Bajaj Finserv	1879.30	-5.25
Bajaj Finance	7269.40	58.05
Bharat Elec	267.35	-9.85
Bharti Airtel	1662.05	21.15
BPCL	335.00	-5.25
Britannia Ind	6120.30	-85.70
Cipla	1624.65	1.35
Coal India	480.45	-16.75
Dr Reddys Lab	6609.90	-23.35
Eicher Motors	4667.95	-38.85
Grasim Ind	2720.50	-24.60
HCL Tech	1776.95	0.35
HDFC Bank	1617.80	-39.85
HDFC Life	705.85	-2.95
Hero MotoCorp	5501.55	-19.30
Hindalco	731.30	-16.60
Hind Unilever	2833.40	-15.35
ICICI Bank	1233.90	-5.85
IndusInd Bank	1350.85	-32.00
Infosys	1934.30	16.15
ITC	510.20	6.65
JSW Steel	1018.75	-15.00
Kotak Bank	1790.25	-18.75
L&T	3468.35	-25.60
M&M	3060.20	42.75
Maruti Suzuki	12527.50	-78.25
NestleIndia	2573.85	-24.30
NTPC	415.45	-15.00
ONGC	289.45	-5.80
PowerGrid Corp	328.95	-9.90
Reliance Ind	2741.45	-31.60
SBI Life	1787.95	-10.15
State Bank	770.65	-26.00
Shriram Finance Ltd.	3299.35	-36.95
Sun Pharma	1905.25	-4.80
TataConsumerProduct	1111.40	-19.00
Tata Motors	927.85	-2.90
Tata Steel	164.36	-2.39
TCS	4272.85	20.60
Tech Mahindra	1618.55	2.10
Titan	3589.25	-80.85
Trent Ltd.	7449.50	96.20
UltraTech Cement	11230.35	-219.90
Wipro	531.45	-2.10

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on October 07

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.78	84.10
Euro	91.90	92.26
British Pound	109.50	109.92
Japanese Yen (100)	56.39	56.60
Chinese Yuan	11.93	11.98
Swiss Franc	97.76	98.15
Singapore Dollar	64.24	64.49
Canadian Dollar	61.68	61.92
Malaysian Ringitt	19.54	19.66
Australian Dollar	56.85	57.08

Source:Indian Bank

Ola Electric shares tank 8% after CEO's social media barbs

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Shares of Ola Electric Mobility fell 8.31% to close at ₹90.82 on the BSE on Monday, a day after its founder and CEO Bhavish Aggarwal sparred with artiste Kunal Kamra over the latter's social media post on Ola's "service deficiencies".

The stock, which was down about 1% in the morning trading hours, fell sharply to about 9%, but gradually recovered towards closing hours.

"Stock back to ₹90 as the CEO "Meltsdown" on social media in a spat with a stand up comedian (for whom it was good publicity). IPO price is coming sooner than later," research analyst Sandeep Sabharwal said on X. Ola's shares were priced ₹76 in its initial public offer (IPO).

"In today's market, mid and small cap stocks bore the maximum brunt and Ola is no exception. Besides this, the company's service deficiencies came into limelight and the company's management has also widely accepted this," said Arun Kejriwal, founder, Kejriwal Research & Investment Services.

On Sunday, Mr. Kamra had posted a picture of a service centre with several Ola electric scooters piled up for repairs, on X, and asked its customers owners to share their stories.

Public inputs sought for I-T Act review

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Nirmala Sitharaman

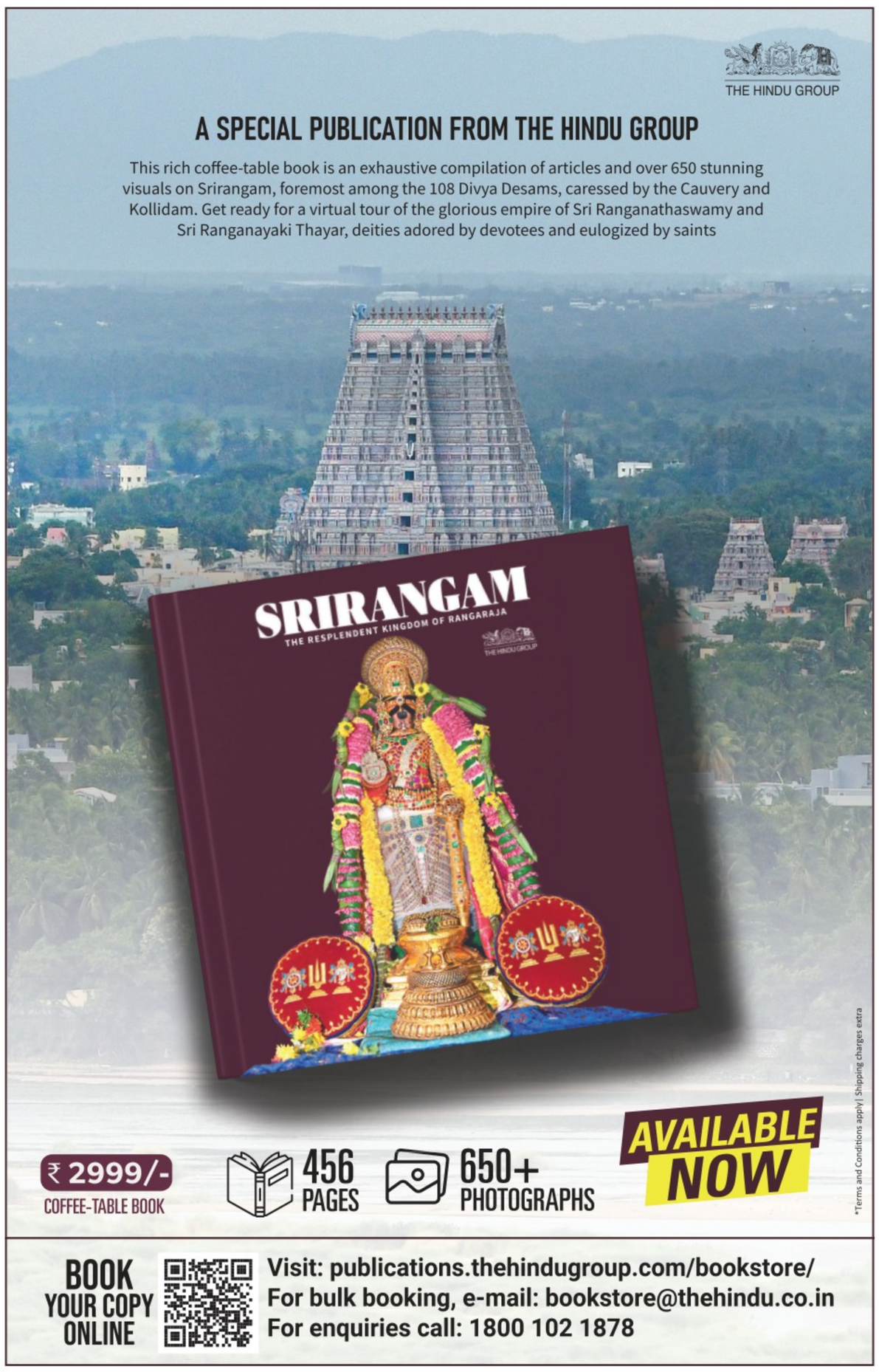
As part of the comprehensive review of the Income Tax Act announced by FM Nirmala Sitharaman in the Union Budget, the Central Board of Direct Taxes invited inputs and suggestions from taxpayers and the public at large.

These ideas may be taken up by an internal committee of the Income Tax Department that has been formed to oversee the review of the 1961 law.

Clear, easy

"The goal is to make the Act concise, clear, and easy to understand, which will reduce disputes, litigation, and provide greater tax certainty to taxpayers," the CBDT said about the remit of the review that is to be completed in six months as per the time line set in the July 23 Budget.

Public inputs, that can be submitted through the e-filing portal for taxpayers, have been sought under four categories viz. language simplification, litigation reduction, compliance reduction and redundant or obsolete provisions, the CBDT said.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CERC steps in to tackle sudden surges in power demand

Sanjay Vijayakumar
CHENNAI

India's power regulator appointed a single-member bench to look into aspects relating to preparedness of power managers and other stakeholders to meet the challenges arising on account of a sudden surge in power demand.

The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) initiated a suo motu proceedings in the issue.

In October, India's projected peak power demand is 230 Giga Watt (GW) and factoring in the inter-State transmission system losses, the peak power demand is expected to be 232.2 GW. There is an additional requirement of generation resources of about 12.60 GW with a reserve requirement of 3% to meet contingency, it said.

The steep rise in electricity demand without adequate generation sources may put the power system operation at risk. It is the statutory responsibility of the regional load despatch centres (RLDCs) and State load despatch centres (SLDCs) to carry out the operational planning for the increase in demand due to seasonal variations.

The CERC directed the National Load Despatch Centre, RLDCs and SLDCs to submit a report by October 16 regarding implementation of steps as per the provisions of the Grid-Code, a load-generation scenario in their respective control areas and any other measures taken to address the deficit of power supply during October.

CERC said its member Ramesh Babu V. will in detail study the responses and conduct the proceedings. He would submit a report and after consideration, the CERC shall issue appropriate directions.

India nudges UAE for $100-billion FDI goal

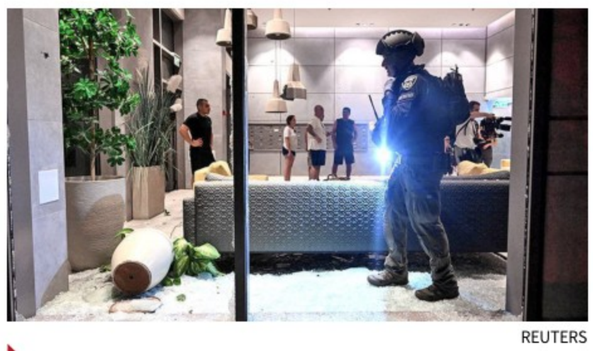
The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

India has initiated discussions with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the fourth largest foreign investor in the country in 2023 with a foreign direct investment (FDI) of $3.5 billion, to scale up its commitment to invest $75 billion in the country to $100 billion, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday.

Mr. Goyal also announced the UAE's decision to make an investment amounting to about $2 billion in India's food processing industry over the next two years.

JERUSALEM

Hezbollah rockets strike Israel's Haifa and Tiberias, 10 injured



REUTERS

Hezbollah rockets hit Haifa, Israel's third-largest city, early on Monday, and 10 persons were injured in the country's north. While Hezbollah targeted a military base south of Haifa with a salvo of "Fadi 1" missiles, two rockets hit Haifa on Israel's Mediterranean Coast and five others hit Tiberias 65 km away. REUTERS

ISTANBUL

Israel will pay price for 'genocide', says Erdogan on war anniversary

AFP

Turkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday vowed that Israel would pay a price for the "genocide" in Gaza as he marked the first anniversary of the war. Mr. Erdogan has often attacked Israel, branding Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu the "butcher of Gaza" and comparing him to Nazi Germany's Adolf Hitler. AFP

BEIRUT

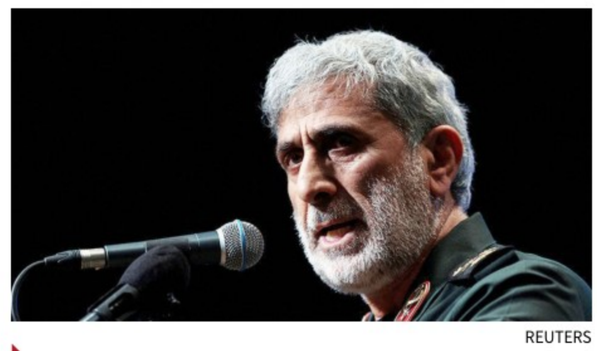
Israel's overnight strike in south Lebanon kills 10 firefighters

AP

Lebanon's Health Ministry said on Monday an Israeli strike in south Lebanon overnight killed 10 firefighters. "An Israeli strike targeted a local firefighting centre in Baraasheet," an official said. The latest report brings to 115 the number of rescuers killed in a year since the start of cross-border fire between Israel and Hezbollah. AFP

DUBAI

Commander of Iran's Quds Force is 'in good health', says deputy leader



REUTERS

The top commander of Iran's Quds Force, Esmail Qaani, is in "good health", the force's deputy commander Iraj Masjedi said on Monday, after two Iranian security sources said he had been out of contact since strikes on Beirut last week. "He is in good health and is carrying out his activities," Masjedi was quoted as saying. REUTERS

Israel marks a year of attack as war rages on two fronts

Hamas marked the anniversary of its October 7, 2023, attack by firing a barrage of rockets at Tel Aviv, underscoring its resilience; Israelis held ceremonies at cemeteries and memorial sites

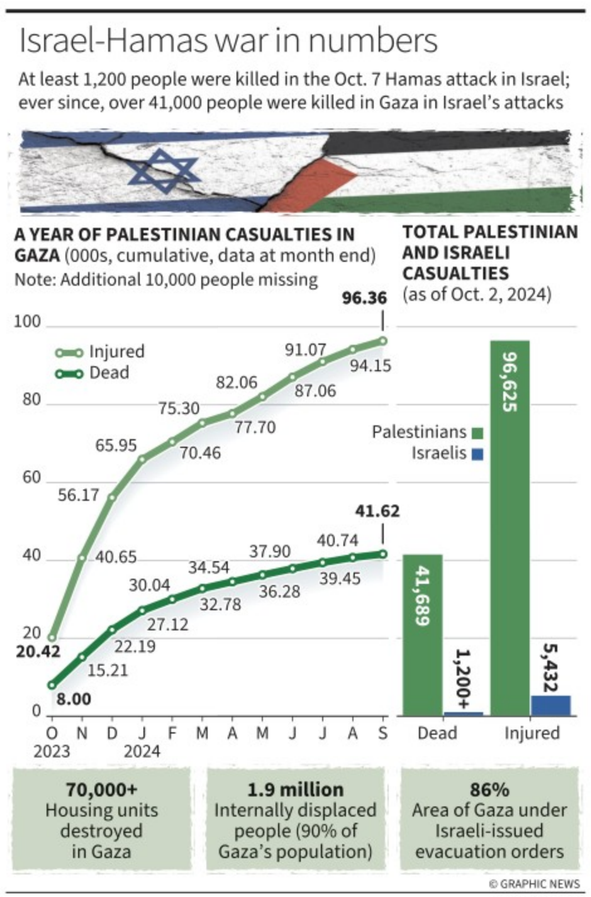
Associated Press
REIM

Israelis held sombre ceremonies on Monday to mark a year since the deadliest attack in the country's history, a Hamas-led raid that shattered its sense of security and has since spiralled into wars on two fronts with no end in sight.

Hamas marked the anniversary of its October 7, 2023, attack by firing a barrage of rockets at Tel Aviv, underscoring its resilience after a year of war and devastation in Gaza. Lebanon's Hezbollah, which began firing rockets at Israel on October 8 in support of Hamas, fired new barrages despite its recent losses.

In the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Palestinian health officials said Israeli troops shot and killed a 12-year-old Palestinian boy in a refugee camp, where the military said it opened fire on Palestinians throwing stones at its forces.

Hamas's surprise cross-border attack one year ago – which caught Israelis unprepared on a major Jewish holiday – shook their faith in their leaders and their military. The militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted another 250. Around 100 hostages have not been returned, a third of whom are believed to be dead, and cease-fire efforts have ground to a halt.



The war in Gaza rages on, and Israel is fighting a new war against Hezbollah, escalating its bombing campaign in Lebanon the past three weeks. There is also a mounting conflict with Iran – which backs both Hamas and Hezbollah.

No formal commemorative event is planned in Gaza, where Israel's assault since October 7 has killed more than 41,000 Palestinians, huge areas have been completely destroyed, most of the population have been driven from their homes and hunger is widespread.

Remembering victims

Israelis flocked to ceremonies, cemeteries and memorial sites around the country, remembering the hundreds of victims, the dozens of hostages still in captivity and soldiers killed in battle. Commemorations were also planned across Europe and elsewhere.

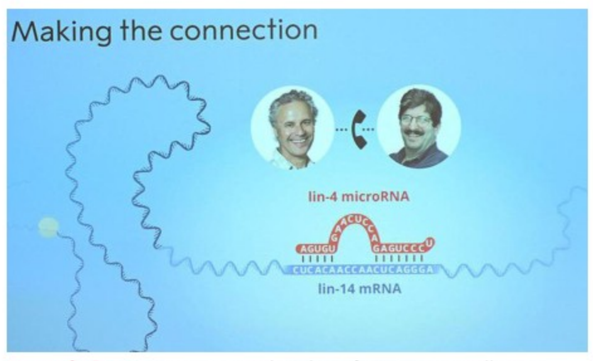
Before dawn, hundreds of families of those killed at the Nova music festival, joined by Israeli President Isaac Herzog, gathered at the site where at least 364 revellers were killed and many others taken hostage. As the sun rose, organisers played the same trance track that was abruptly halted when the barrage of rockets began.

At 6:31 a.m., four projectiles were launched from Gaza toward the same communities that came under attack last year, without disrupting the ceremony. The military said another five rockets were launched from the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis toward central Israel, setting off air raid sirens in Tel Aviv. Two women were lightly wounded. The military said it struck the launch sites.

'miRNA ensures the correct set of genes is active in each cell type'

Vasudevan Mukunth

The label "post-transcriptional" reflects the upheaval due to the discovery of miRNA by Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun, who were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology 2024. Until then, biologists believed cells could not or did not regulate the expression of genes once the transcription process began. As the Academy put it, miRNA allows "the precise regulation of gene activity so that only the correct set of genes is active in each specific cell type. This enables, for example, muscle cells, intestinal cells, and different types of nerve cells to perform their specialised functions."



New window: Some miRNAs that don't function normally can cause diseases including cancer and autoimmunity. AFP

Some miRNAs that don't function normally can cause diseases including cancer and autoimmunity. Scientists already know 'defects' in genes the body needs to make miRNA can cause disorders of sight, hearing, and skeletal growth. In addition to revealing a new layer of gene regulation, the work of Mr. Ambros and Mr. Ruvkun thus opened a new window into hitherto incompletely understood conditions. Researchers around the world are currently studying whether they can be treated or even avoided by targeting therapeutic interventions at miRNA.

Mr. Ambros and Mr. Ruvkun collaborated from the time they were postdoctoral fellows in the laboratory of the American biologist Robert Horvitz, who won part of the 2002 medicine Nobel Prize. The duo's work also recalls that of the laureates of the 2006 medicine Nobel Prize, Andrew Fire and Craig Mello. They found plants use the same miRNA-making process to make another kind of RNA that damages mRNA in attacking viruses.

The Nobel Prize on Monday kicks off a week of announcements, to be followed on Tuesday by the physics prize and on Wednesday by the chemistry prize.

Separatist group claims bombing that killed 2 Chinese nationals in Karachi

Associated Press
KARACHI

A Pakistani separatist group claimed responsibility for a late night bombing that targeted a convoy with Chinese nationals outside the country's largest airport, killing two workers from China and wounding eight, the insurgent group said on Monday.

The attack by the Baloch Liberation Army outside the airport in the port city of Karachi was the latest deadly assault on Chinese here and came a week before Pakistan is to host a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, a security grouping founded by China and Russia to counter Western alliances.

The explosion, which the BLA said was the work of a suicide bomber, also raised questions about the ability of Pakistani forces to secure high-profile events or foreigners in the country. Among the wounded were also police officers who were escorting the Chinese convoy.

Initially, Pakistani authorities gave conflicting details and said the explosion may have been from an oil tanker but police later confirmed it was a bomb attack.

The Chinese Embassy in Islamabad said Chinese staffers working at the Port Qasim Electric Power Company – a coal-powered power plant that's a joint China-Pakistan venture – were in the convoy when it came under attack.

Trump keeps up his rhetoric against migrants, says they are bringing 'bad genes' into U.S.

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Donald Trump said on Monday that illegal immigrants were bringing "bad genes" into the United States, doubling down on previous inflammatory rhetoric about migrants poisoning the blood of the country.

Mr. Trump was criticising his Democratic presidential rival Vice-President Kamala Harris in a radio interview when he brought up government figures showing 13,000 immigrants in the U.S. were not in federal immigration detention, despite homicide convictions.

"How about allowing people to come to an open border, 13,000 of which were murderers, many of them murdered far more than one person? They are now happily living in the United States," he told conservative host Hugh Hewitt.

"You know now, a murderer – I believe this – its in their genes. We have got a lot of bad genes in our country right now. They had 4,25,000 people come into our country that should not be here that are criminals."

Donald Trump said 13,000 immigrants in the U.S. were not in federal immigration detention, despite homicide convictions. REUTERS

Mr. Trump was misconstruing data released in September by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency.

The figures don't include people incarcerated outside of ICE facilities – in State, local or other federal facilities, for example – and they cover a period spanning decades, including when Mr. Trump was President.

U.S. media reported on Monday that migrant apprehensions at the U.S.-Mexico border fell 75% year-on-year in September – to the lowest level since the Trump administration – citing Department of Homeland Security statistics.

Mr. Trump has spent much of his campaign demonising both undocumented immigrants and those in the United States legally.

During a rally last month, he said Ms. Harris should be prosecuted over President Joe Biden's border policies and called illegal immigrants "animals," out to "rape, pillage, thieve, plunder and kill."

Russia sentences 72-year-old U.S. citizen to prison

MOSCOW

A Russian court on Monday sentenced a 72-year-old American to nearly seven years in prison for fighting as a mercenary in Ukraine. Prosecutors said Stephen Hubbard signed a contract with the Ukrainian military in February 2022 and he fought alongside them until being captured two months later.

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KHARAVEL NAGAR, BHUBANESWAR-I

Letter No. 7353 / TBPM, Date - 07.10.2024

2nd **Corrigendum** of the Tender Notice No. 6415/TBPM, dt.29.08.2024 against Printing and Binding of NT Books and Allied books for Academic Session 2025-26 is given below :

Read as :

"The date of opening of technical bid is on dt.**09.10.2024 at 11.30 AM** instead of dt.21.09.2024 at 11.00 AM.

Sd/- Director,
Text Book Production & Marketing, BBSR

n-106: OIPR-02005/11/0013/2425

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (Drainage and Garden)

Tel.No (0240) 2333536-40
Fax.No.(0240)-2331213

Address: Municipal Corporation Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Executive Engineer (Drainage)
Head office: Town Hall Pin 431001
E-Tender Call AMC (For Help):
Cell No. **9764999556**

No/AMC/DyEng. Zone 04/640/2024 Date: 07/10/2024

Sr. No	Work Name	Last Date of Tender Submission
1	**Construction of Storm Water Drain in Harsul Area (Zone-04) under Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Municipal Corporation. (TENDER AMT. RS. 17,85,68,156/-)**	21/10/2024

Note :- 1. For the above started work is available on website - www.mahatenders.gov.in

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
(Drainage and Garden)
Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Municipal Corporation

ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION-2024
(OJEE-2024)

No: OJEE / 539 *Date : 05.10.2024*

**PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING
B.PHARM / M.PHARM WEB COUNSELLING FOR 2024-25**

This is for the information of all concerned that OJEE Web-Based Counselling Process for **B.Pharm / M.Pharm** Programs is going to start from **8th October, 2024**.

Interested candidates having valid OJEE 2024 /JEE Main-2024 / NEET-UG 2024 Ranks (for B.Pharm) and OJEE Rank / valid GPAT Score (for M.Pharm) programs are advised to visit OJEE websites (**www.ojee.nic.in / www.odishajee.com**) and see the detailed **Counselling Schedule** for all these courses.

They are further advised to carefully go through the documents, **"Counselling Brochure" and "Step-by-Step Procedure"**, available in the website to get detailed information about the entire counselling process.

Sd/-
**Chairman, OJEE
ODISHA**

h- 10 OIPR-44026/11/0010/2425

CUTTACK DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

CDA CUTTACK DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

**"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Tender ID : 2024_CDACU_105415**

Tender Call Notice No. 8102, CDA Date.05.10.2024

No of Works : 1 No
Bid Value : Rs. 401.85 Lakhs
Period of Completion: Eleven Calendar Months
Date and Time schedule :

Start	End	Opening
10.00 AM on dt. 08.10.2024	4.00 PM on dt. 01.11.2024	12:30 P.M. on dt. 07.11.2024

Tender Details: can be seen from the procurement portal : **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**

Sd/-
**Executive Engineer,
CDA, Cuttack**

CAD-1336: OIPR-13037/11/0089/2425

PULLED UP

Arundhati reprimanded for fiery send-off to Nida in Pakistan game

GETTY IMAGES

India pacer Arundhati Reddy was on Monday reprimanded for giving an aggressive send-off to Pakistan's Nida Dar during their Women's T20 World Cup contest in Dubai on Sunday. She let emotions get the better of her after castling Nida in the 20th over of the Pakistan innings and gestured in the direction of the pavilion.

IN CONTROL

Wyatt & Sciver-Brunt's partnership was outstanding to watch: Knight

GETTY IMAGES

Nat Sciver-Brunt played a big role in England's successful chase against South Africa in a Women's T20 World Cup match at Sharjah on Monday. "We controlled the chase brilliantly, that stand [Danni Wyatt-Hodge and Sciver-Brunt] was outstanding to watch. The way they ran, it was a proper job," said England skipper Heather Knight.

TOUGH ROAD

Next two matches are must-win for us, admits SA's Wolvaardt

GETTY IMAGES

South Africa, which lost to England in its second game of the Women's T20 World Cup, faces Scotland on Wednesday and Bangladesh on Saturday. "Obviously the next two are must-win games for us and both could be tough in these conditions... we have to be on our A-game," said South Africa captain Laura Wolvaardt.

GOOD, BUT...

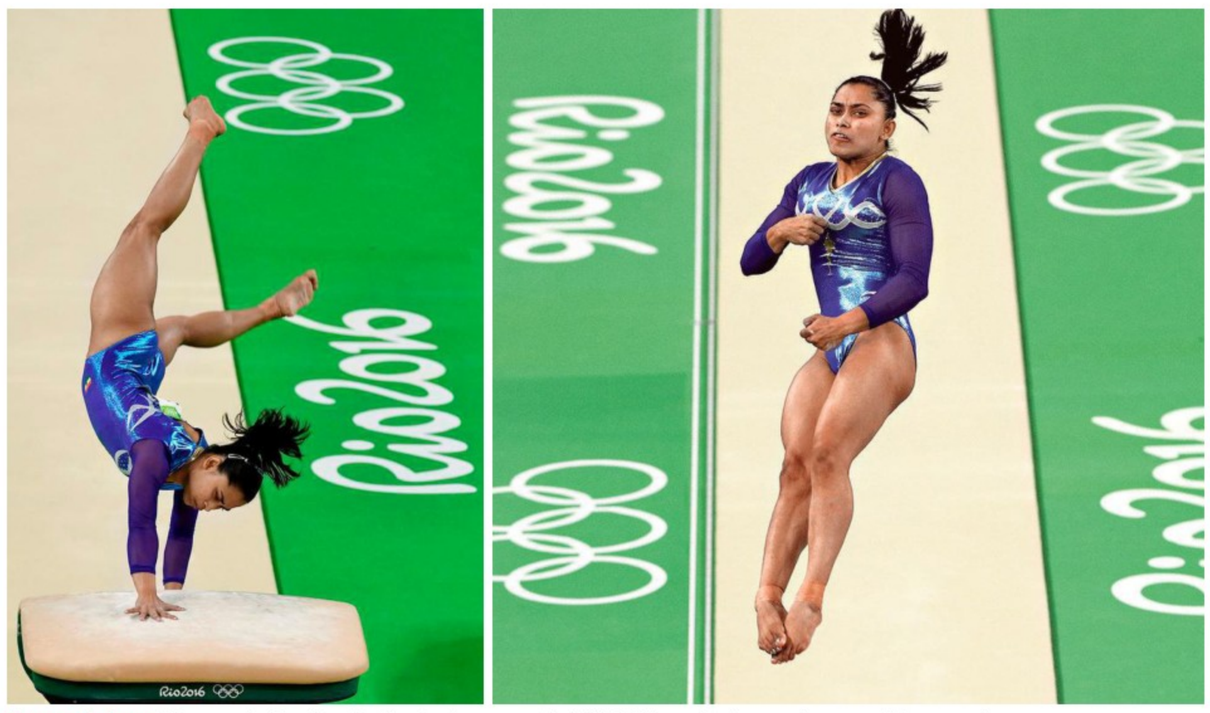
Don't think we were too worried about Mayank, says Shanto

EMMANUAL YOGINI

The Bangladesh batters were tentative when facing India pacer Mayank Yadav in first T20I at Gwalior on Sunday. Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto, however, was not worried about India's X-factor. "We have similar fast bowlers in the nets. I don't think we were too worried about Mayank. But he is a good bowler".

Dipa calls it quits after a career of highs and lows

The decision was not easy for me, but the time is right. I am grateful for every moment, she says; the 31-year-old adds that her connection with the sport will never be lost



The special one: Dipa says that performing the Produnova vault at Rio 2016 remains her most memorable moment. FILE PHOTO

GYMNASTICS

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Dipa Karmakar, who made India a talking point in world gymnastics by securing a historic fourth place in vault in the 2016 Rio Olympics, announced her retirement from the sport on Monday.

The 31-year-old took to social media platform X to announce her decision.

Dipa, who had overcome a suspension for doping and injuries to become the first Indian to win gold in the Asian championships in Tashkent last May, said she was proud of her career.

"I remember a five-year-old Dipa who was told that she could never be a gymnast because of her flat feet.

"Today, I am very proud to see my achievements, representing the country on the world stage and winning medals.

"The most special moment was performing the Produnova vault in the Rio Olympics. It remains the most memorable moment of my career. Today, I feel very happy to see Dipa because she had the courage to dream," said Dipa in her post.

"My last victory in the Asian Championship was a turning point because I felt I could push my body further. But sometimes our body tells us that it is time to rest. The heart still does not accept it even today. After much thought, I have decided to retire from gymnastics.

"This decision was not easy for me, but the time is right. I am grateful for every moment, the highs, the lows and everything in between," said Agartala-based Dipa, who landed a bronze medal in the 2018 Commonwealth Games and a gold and a bronze in World Cups. Among others, Dipa thanked her family and coaches Bishweshwar Nandi and Soma Nandi for their support for 25 years.

She added she would contribute to the sport.

"My connection with gymnastics will never be lost. I would like to give back to the sport, maybe as a mentor or a coach, by supporting girls like me."

Arundhati — from the brink of insignificance to a vital cog in India's campaign

WOMEN'S T20 WC

Lavanya L
SHARJAH

What a return! Arundhati's persistence helped her make her way back into the side and also play a big role against Pakistan. ICC

In a country like India, domestic cricketers almost compulsorily need to have patience written in their resumes to persevere and build careers in the game. The pool of piranhas eyeing limited spots in teams across many tiers of play has been widening every year.

Arundhati Reddy learnt this the hard way when she went from India regular to being referred to in the past tense in the women's narrative in a few months, back in 2021.

India likes flaunting its spin arsenal in the T20I game. In 2021, Indian cricket was reluctantly bidding farewell to Jhulan Goswami. Shikha Pandey was in and out of the team, while talents Renuka Singh Thakur and Pooja Vastrakar emerged.

Finding herself overlooked, Arundhati dove deep into the domestic game. A remarkable two-season run with the Delhi Capitals in the Women's Premier League and consistency for Kerala and South Zone in the domestic tiers finally pushed her name up.

"I wanted to wear that India jersey again." And she did, 1090 days later.

"I was off for three and a half years and it wasn't a great patch for me," Arundhati said, after registering a match-winning performance against Pakistan in the Women's T20 World Cup.

The route back to the Indian side was anything but smooth. Dwindling playing opportunities with the Railways forced her to switch to Kerala. Discipline and persistence resulted in a bigger role in Delhi Capitals.

She also trains at the NICE Academy in Bengaluru under coach Arjun Dev, who was in the crowd at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

"The build-up [to the World Cup] hasn't been ideal in terms of the time we got for practice but it was more conversations and just making her feel confident in her own skills cos she's pretty good, isn't it?" he told *The Hindu* after the game.

Arundhati's strength is her 'Test match' ethic. Her stump line bowling and the ability to swing the ball into the batter have given her considerable success. In the 24 balls she bowled to Pakistan, she gave away just one boundary and managed 11 dot balls.

Over the next few days, India will face Sri Lanka in Dubai and Australia in Sharjah in a group that is looking incredibly tight in the playoff race. With its campaign still hanging in the balance, Arundhati will be key to India's prospects in the two group games that remain.

Sciver-Brunt gets the chase done in the final over

Lavanya L
SHARJAH

When Laura Wolvaardt opted to bat against England here, she said South Africa had a chance to go 2-0 up in the Group B standings of the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup. England skipper Heather Knight, who was in earshot, must have thought, 'Not today.'

An aggressive chase led by Danni Wyatt-Hodge and Nat Sciver-Brunt saw England beat the Proteas by seven wickets here on Monday. The South African dugout was seen walking away with hunched shoulders and discussions on all the moments squandered.

Earlier, Wolvaardt and Tazmin Brits struggled a little to find the boundary, a task made harder by a slow outfield. Wolvaardt kept losing partners at the other end particularly when the England spin quartet began operating. Annerie Dercksen's back-to-back boundaries in the 20th over helped South Africa crawl past 120, the first time a team has managed to do so at this venue in this edition of the tournament.

A 64-run stand for the third wicket set up England's win comfortably despite the game dragging till the last over.

The scores: South Africa 124/6 in 20 overs (Wolvaardt 42, Ecclestone 2/15) lost to England 125/3 in 19.2 overs (Wyatt 43, Sciver-Brunt 48 n.o.); **PoM:** Ecclestone.

Varun makes a grand return to the Indian side

BANGLADESH IN INDIA

Ashwin Achal
GWALIOR

Upgrade: Varun says he has completely shifted to being an over-spin bowler now. EMMANUAL YOGINI

It has been "a long three years" for Varun Chakravarthy.

Since going wicketless in the 2021 ICC Men's T20 World Cup, the finger spinner has been out of the Indian team.

The disappointment at being ignored was replaced by relief and joy on Sunday when Varun made a successful comeback. His three-wicket haul against Bangladesh in the first T20I here signalled good times to come.

"It has been a long three years. Whenever the India squad for a series was announced, I used to think, 'Why is my name not there?'. I would keep thinking about it. That brought motivation in me that I should go all out and make a comeback," Varun said at the post-match press conference.

The 33-year-old made his way back to the Indian team on the back of strong shows in the last two editions of the IPL. Representing Kolkata Knight Riders, Varun recorded 20 wickets in IPL 2023, and followed it up by finishing as the second-highest wicket-taker in the 2024 edition.

There was also a good run in the 50-over 2023-24 Vijay Hazare Trophy, where Varun was the joint-highest wicket-taker.

On the technical front, Varun has made a major change. Over the last two years, he has transitioned from orthodox side-spin to over-spin, which affords more dip and bounce.

"I used to be a side-spin bowler, now I have completely shifted to over-spin. I slowly tested this in the TNPL and IPL," Varun said.

Varun is happy to be under the wing of India head coach Gautam Gambhir. There is familiarity in this relationship, as Gambhir was the KKR Team Mentor in its IPL 2024 title run.

"He (Gambhir) is a man of few words. This is my first time with him in the Indian team, and I hope to spend more time with him," Varun said.

There is immense competition to grab the spinner's spot in the Indian team, a fact that Varun acknowledges and relishes. At Gwalior, Varun and Washington Sundar entered the XI ahead of Ravi Bishnoi. Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav, both of whom performed admirably in India's recent T20 World Cup victory, are the forerunners for the attack.

Good competition

"There is good competition and good camaraderie between us. The person cheering me in this match was Bishnoi. I cannot ask for more. Competition is very important, as it makes us push each other," Varun said.

The Tamil Nadu cricketer was thankful to those who supported him when he was down for the count. "The first is my family. They have been through everything with me. All my adverse emotions – they have seen it.

"I must also thank the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association, my TNPL team Dindigul Dragons and KKR. The management backed me. They gave me the tough overs so that I could improve my skills. I played all matches with full intensity; I never considered anything as high level or low level matches," Varun said.

GCL: Pipers stun Knights

P.K. Ajith Kumar
LONDON

For once, the PBG Alaskan Knights were made to dance to somebody else's tunes. That of the Pipers, fittingly enough.

Alpine SG Pipers' 9-7 victory at the Friends House here on Monday finally halted the winning streak of the Knights. It was the first defeat for the Knights who had won their opening five games.

The wins by Hou Yifan, over her fellow Chinese Tan Zhongyi, and Kateryna Lagno against Alina Kashlinskaya proved crucial. Knights were still in pole position with 15 match points. Triveni Continental Kings and Pipers are on 12.

The results:

Triveni Continental Kings bt Upgrad Mumba Masters 10-8 (Alireza Firouzja bt Maxime Vachier-Lagrave; Yi Wei lost to Vidit Gujrathi; Timour Radjabov drew with Peter Svidler; Alexandra Kosteniuk bt Koneru Humpy; Valentina Gunina lost to D. Harika; Javokhir Sindarov drew with Raunak Sadhwani).

Alpine SG Pipers bt PBG Alaskan Knights 9-7 (Magnus Carlsen drew with Anish Giri, R. Praggnanandhaa drew with Nodirbek Abdusattarov; Richard Rapport drew with Shakhriyar Mamedyarov; Hou Yifan bt Tan Zhongyi; Kateryna Lagno bt Alina Kashlinskaya; Daniel Dardha lost to Nihal Sarin).

Ganges Grandmasters bt American Gambits 10-4 (Viswanathan Anand drew with Hikaru Nakamura, Arjun Erigaisi drew with Jan-Krzysztof Duda; Parham Maghsoodloo drew with Yu Yangyi; R. Vaishali drew with Bibisara Assaubayeva; Nurgyul Salimova bt Elisabeth Paehtz; Volodar Murzin bt Jonas Buhl Bjerre).

(The writer is in London at the invitation of Tech Mahindra)

Nihal game: Pipers' appeal rejected

P.K. Ajith Kumar
LONDON

The draw Nihal Sarin made with Daniel Dardha, in Sunday's match between PBG Alaskan Knights and Alpine SG Pipers, stands. Nihal was in a winning position but was badly short of time when he claimed the draw and the arbiter approved it.

Though both players agreed on the result, an appeal was made by Pipers later on. Magnus Carlsen, Pipers' Icon player, alleged on X that Nihal made several illegal moves and the arbiter never stepped in.

According to the chairman of the appeal committee and FIDE delegate Victor Bologan, the appeal was partially upheld.

"If there was already a warning, and after that if there was an illegal move, then we could take a decision based on the fact that this action directly influenced the result," he said. "There were no proper illegal moves made by Nihal, but illegal situations were provoked by him dropping the pieces and pressing the clock."

INBRIEF

Vihan and Sabeera win mixed trap bronze

Shardul Vihan and Sabeera Haris shot 138 and won the mixed trap bronze medal in the World junior shooting championship that concluded in Lima. Czech Republic beat Italy in the shoot-off 8-7 for the gold after the two were tied on 141.

The results: 50m free pistol: Junior men: 1. Imran Garayev (Aze) 552; 2. Luca Joldea (Rou) 550; 3. Mukesh Nelavalli 548; 5. Deepak Dalal 545; 7. Kamaljeet 543; 16. Umesh Choudhary 530; 17. Raj Chandra 528.
Junior women: 1. Miriam Jako (Hun) 546 (WR); 2. Parisha Gupta 540; 3. Sofiya Barkhalova (Aze) 535; 4. Sejal Kamble 529; 4. Ketan 525; 8. Divanshi 523; 10. Kanishka Dagar 513.
Mixed trap: 1. Czech Republic (Martina Matejkova, Ondrej Stastny) 141(8); 2. Italy (Maria Maccioni, Riccardo Mirabile) 141(7); 3. India (Sabeera Haris, Shardul Vihan) 138; 6. India-2 (Bhavya Tripathi, Zuhair Khan) 134.

India to play Togo in Davis Cup World Group I Play-offs

India will play Togo in the Davis Cup World Group I Play-offs to be held between January 31 and February 2 next year, according to the draw conducted by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) here on Monday. The draw, which includes both World Group I and II play-offs, will see 52 nations compete in 26 home-and-away ties around the globe on either January 31-February 1 or February 1-2. India will feature in the World Group I Play-offs with the dates to be determined by the home nation.

Jayasuriya named full-time Lanka cricket head coach

Sanath Jayasuriya was appointed as Sri Lanka's full-time head coach on Monday, replacing Chris Silverwood who quit following the country's early exit from the T20 World Cup. Jayasuriya, 55, who had been in interim charge since June, was appointed full-time coach until March 2026.

Mohun Bagan out of AFC CL 2 after missing match in Iran

Mohun Bagan Super Giant is out of the AFC Champions League Two after not travelling to Iran for a group-stage match against Tabriz-based Tractor SC scheduled for Oct. 2. The club's matches in the competition are now null and void with the club "considered to have withdrawn," the Asian Football Confederation said in a statement on Monday.

Harsabardhan and Jyoshna lift youth gold medals

Odisha lifers Harsabardhan Sahu and Jyoshna Sabar won gold in youth competitions on the inaugural day of the National youth, junior and senior weightlifting championships in Nagrota Bagwan (HP) on Monday.

The results: (winners only): Men: 49kg: Harsabardhan Sahu (Odi) snatch 85kg, clean and jerk 110kg, total 195kg; **Women: 40kg:** Jyoshna Sabar (Odi) 56kg, 64kg, 120kg.

Madrid's Carvajal to undergo surgery for knee injury

Real Madrid extended Dani Carvajal's contract on Sunday after tests showed he will likely be sidelined for the rest of the season with a serious knee injury. Madrid said it agreed with Carvajal to extend his contract until June 2026 in an announcement made hours after the right-back was diagnosed with a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament. He suffered the injury during Madrid's last LaLiga match against Villarreal. Madrid said Carvajal will undergo surgery in the coming days.

LIVE TELECAST

Pakistan vs England: 1st Test, day 2, FanCode, 10.30 a.m.
Global Chess League: JioCinema, 5.30 p.m. onwards.
Women's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Nitya's fluent innings puts India in a strong position

His 94 helps the host finish the opening day of the second u-19 'Test' at 316 for five; Karthikeya, Nikhil and Soham chip in with half-centuries; first match centurion Vaibhav falls cheaply

CRICKET

Tarun Shastry
CHENNAI

The mark of a good batter is not just in the fours and sixes he scores, it is about knowing the deliveries to leave and the ones to hit. It is also about game awareness.

Nitya Pandya (94, 135b, 12x4) and K.P. Karthikeya (71, 99b, 9x4, 1x6) perfectly embodied the description during their 112-run third-wicket partnership as they steered India U-19 to a strong position against Australia U-19 on day one of the second Youth Test at the M.A. Chidambaram stadium here on Monday.

After electing to bat, India suffered a blow in the seventh ball of the morning, when pacer Harry Hoekstra removed Vaibhav Suryavanshi cheaply.

Nitya joined the other opener, Vihaan Malhotra, and took the attack to the opposition playing fluently, both off the front and backfoot, and on either side of the wicket. He scored five fours through the on-side to the deep mid-wicket region with wristy flicks, three beautiful drives straight down the ground, and four elegant drives through covers. The pair added 56 runs for the second wicket.

Blazing away: Nitya's knock contained a dozen boundaries. R. RAGU

Vishwa Ramkumar provided the breakthrough to dismiss Vihaan who was looking to sweep only to be bowled around his legs.

Karthikeya walked out to bat with a positive intent, taking on the Aussie bowlers. He scored a huge six towards deep-mid wicket, followed by two fours through third man.

The duo added 112 runs for the third wicket before Hoekstra dismissed Nitya. Christian Howe then sent back Karthikeya. Skipper Soham Patwardhan (61 batting, 120b, 6x4) and Nikhil Kumar (61, 93b, 7x4) added 105 runs for the fifth wicket as the host finished the day at 316 for five.

The scores: India U-19 316/5 in 90 overs (Nitya Pandya 94, K.P. Karthikeya 71, Soham Patwardhan 61 batting, Nikhil 61) vs Australia U-19. **Toss:** India.

Lewandowski wins it for Barcelona

EURO LEAGUES

Reuters
VITORIA-GASTEIZ

Robert Lewandowski's first-half hat-trick guided LaLiga leader Barcelona to a 3-0 win away at Deportivo Alaves on Sunday as the Polish striker extended his lead at the top of the league's scoring charts.

Barcelona wasted no time in going in front when Lewandowski headed home from a Raphinha free-kick in the seventh minute before the Brazilian winger provided another assist on a counter-attack for the 36-year-old striker to grab his second.

Lewandowski completed his hat-trick in the 32nd for his 10th LaLiga goal in nine games this season.

The results: Premier League: Brighton 3 (Minteh 48, Rutter 58, Welbeck 66) bt Tottenham 2 (Johnson 23, Maddison 37).

Serie A: Fiorentina 2 (Aldi 35, Gudmundsson 73) bt AC Milan 1 (Pulisic 60); Monza 1 (Mota 70) drew with Roma 1 (Dovbyk 61).

LaLiga: Alaves 0 lost to Barcelona 3 (Lewandowski 7, 22, 32); Sevilla 1 (Lukebakio 50-pen) bt Real Betis 0; Real Sociedad 1 (Sucic 84) drew with Atletico Madrid 1 (Alvarez 1).

Bundesliga: Heidenheim 0 lost to RB Leipzig 1 (Openda 59); Eintracht Frankfurt 3 (Marmoush 22, 90+4, Ekitike 35) drew with Bayern Munich 3 (Kim 15, Upamecano 38, Olise 53); Stuttgart 1 (Demirovic 90+9) drew with Hoffenheim 1 (Gendrey 44).

Indian squad for Asian cross country event

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Gulveer Singh, the Asian Games bronze medallist in 10000m, will be among the eight-member elite Indian team which will compete in the Asian Cross Country event, to be held in Hong Kong on October 20.

Gulveer will have the company of his training partner Kartik Kumar along with Abhishek Pal and Arun Rathod.

The squad: Elite: Men: Gulveer Singh, Karthik Kumar, Abhishek Pal, Arun Rathod; Women: Ankita, Seema, Sanjivani Jadhav, Sonika.
Junior: Men: Amardeep Pal, Kripashankar Yadav, Vinod Singh, Gaurav Bhaskar Bhosale; Women: Ekta Dey, Sunita Devi, Shilpa Dhiora, Prachi Ankush Devkar.

Mukesh makes a case for Australia tour selection

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

He is one of only two India male players - both pacers - to have made his debut in each of the three formats of international cricket in the same series. While T. Natarajan - the other in the club - is a forgotten man after the tour to Australia in 2020-21, Mukesh Kumar has kept going strong.

In fact, thanks to his recent performances, Mukesh has made a strong claim to be considered for the forthcoming five-Test series Down Under. But being the happy-go-lucky boy from rural Bihar who made it big first for Bengal, then for Delhi Capitals and the national cricket team is unperturbed about selection issues.

"I was primarily focussing on this game, how to plan a wicket, how to justify the faith that the captain has shown in me," Mukesh said after picking a five-wicket haul for Rest of India against Ranji Trophy champion Mumbai in Lucknow. "Selection and all will keep happening. If I have done well and am deserving, I will definitely be selected. There will be many more opportunities to perform in other matches as well."

Plugging away: Mukesh Kumar is among the pacers in contention for a spot in the team for the Australian tour. SANDEEP SAXENA

If recent performances are accounted for Mukesh should definitely be a front-runner for taking the plane Down Under with the Test squad - not just the A squad. After all, his five-wicket haul - while bowling a containing line on a placid Ekana surface for the first three days came on the back of a 15-wicket tally in the Duleep Trophy. Only Anshul Kamboj (16 wickets) had more scalps than Mukesh in the Duleep Trophy.

While Australia is considered as the Holy Grail to succeed for most Indian Test cricketers, Mukesh belongs to the minority. He is not overtly excited with the prospects of touring Australia. "Actually playing for India was the only target that I had set for myself. Once I achieved it, I realised playing in each of the other countries is going to be a matter of pride," he said.

"From what I have heard, wickets are helpful for pacers, with pace and bounce on offer. I have obviously been thinking of bowling there and doing my best should I get an opportunity."

Masood and Abdullah's tons power Pakistan's big total

ENG IN PAK

Reuters
MULTAN

Pakistan captain Shan Masood smashed 151 (117b, 13x4, 2x6) and forged a 253-run partnership with fellow centurion Abdullah Shafique (102, 184b, 10x4, 2x6) to put the host on course for a massive first innings total in the opening Test against England on Monday.

England's tired bowling attack managed to get rid of both the batters in the final session of the day but Pakistan reached 328 for four at stumps, vindicating Masood's decision to bat.

Toil

Atkinson claimed two wickets but it was toil with little success on an unresponsive pitch for England's inexperienced seam attack led by Chris Woakes.

Pakistan did not start well though and opener Saim Ayub tickled a Gus Atkinson delivery down the leg side to be caught behind in the fourth over of the day.

Making merry: Pakistan skipper Masood, left, and Shafique sent the England bowlers on a leather hunt. AFP

Masood, on 16, was given lbw to Brydon Carse in the debutant seamer's second over. The decision, however, was overturned on review allowing Masood to race to a 43-ball fifty. He reached his ton, his first since August 2020, in 102 balls.

A tired-looking Shafique, who reached his century with a six, was caught by Pope off Atkinson. Masood had crossed the 150-mark by then and he too returned giving Jack Leach a return catch.

It was a great opportunity for Babar Azam (30) to end his run drought and Pakistan's batting mainstay got a decent start too before Woakes, armed with the new ball, returned to trap him lbw.

The scores: Pakistan 328/4 in 86 overs (Masood 151, Shafique 102) vs. England. **Toss:** Pakistan.

Sarayu downs Arya to move into the joint lead

CHESS

Sports Bureau

Top seed Velpula Sarayu of Telangana scored a 41-move win over Arya Mallar of Kerala in the fifth round of the 50th National women's chess championship at Karaikudi on Monday to move into the joint lead with five others.

Sarayu shares the top spot with defending champion Padmini Rout, K. Priyanka, Mary Ann Gomes, P.V. Nandhidhaa and Isha Sharma with 4.5 points.

Draws

Padmini and Priyanka drew their game in 35 moves while Mary defeated Swathi Ghate in 39 moves.

Important fifth round results:
Padmini Rout (PSPB, 4.5) drew K. Priyanka (TN, 4.5); Velpula Sarayu (TS, 4.5) bt Arya Mallar (Ker, 3.5); P.V. Nandhidhaa (TN, 4.5) bt Kalyani Siri (Ker, 3.5); Mary Ann Gomes (PSPB, 4.5) bt Swati Ghate (LIC, 3.5); Isha Sharma (Kar, 4.5) bt Mrittika Mallick (WB, 3.5).

Mrudul Dehankar (Mah, 4) drew with Sakshi Chitlange (Mah, 4); Rakshitta Ravi (TN, 4) bt H.G. Priyanga (TN, 3).

G. Kheerti (TS, 4) bt Srija Seshadri (TN, 3); V.C. Nivedita (TN, 4) bt Vrushali Deodhar (Mah, 3).

V. Varshini (TN, 4) bt S. Harini (TN, 3); Nisha Mohota (PSPB, 4) bt Saranya Devi (TS, 3).

J. Saranya (TN, 4) bt Anishka Vikram (Del, 3); S. Jeevika (Pud, 4) bt Keerti Shree Reddy (TN, 3).

Oliver's Mount wins Mirza Zunnur Ahmed Memorial Cup

HYDERABAD: Trainer L. D'Silva's Oliver's Mount, ridden by K.G. Likith Appu, won the Mirza Zunnur Ahmed Memorial Cup, by a nose from the fast-finishing Brooklyn Beauty, the main event of Monday's races.

The winner is owned by M/s. Vazhaparambil John Joseph, Bharat Venkat Epur & Ayyadevara Srinivas.

1. GOODWOOD PLATE (2,000M): DESERT HERO (Gaurav Singh) 1, Sundance Kid (Kuldeep Sr.) 2, China Town (P. Ajeeth K) 3 and Caraxes (Md. Ismail) 4. 6-1/2, 2-1/4 and 2. 2m, 8.40s. ₹26 (w), 11, 10 and 13 (p). SHP: 33, THP: 39, SHW: 12 and 17, FP: 65, Q: 33, Tanala: 191. Favourite: Sundance Kid. Owners: Kunwar Digvijay Singh Shekhawat & Mr. V. Shanmugam. Trainer: N. Ravinder Singh.

2. LOYAL MANZAR PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200M): ASHWA YASHVIR (Gaurav Singh) 1, Bold Beauty (P. Sai K) 2, Nkalanzinzi (P. Ajeeth K) 3 and Sadiya (Kuldeep Jr.) 4. 1-1/4, 4-1/2 and 2. 1m, 14.72s. ₹21 (w), 12, 10 and 15 (p). SHP: 32, THP: 41, SHW: 11 and 13, FP: 71, Q: 27, Tanala: 142. Favourite: Ashwa Yashvir. Owner: Mr. Ravinder Pal Singh Chauhan. Trainer: N. Ravinder Singh.

3. NIRMAL PLATE (DIV. II) (1,400M): LIGHTS ON (Md. Ekram Alam) 1, Windsor (Kuldeep Sr.) 2, Arthisha (Mukesh) 3 and Federer (P. Ajeeth K) 4. 3/4, Neck and 1-1/4. 1m, 28.90s. ₹145 (w), 31, 10 and 13 (p). SHP: 30, THP: 38, SHW: 59 and 17, FP: 670, Q: 307, Tanala: 1,394. Favourite: Arthisha. Owner: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

4. NAWAB MEHDI JUNG BAHADUR MEMORIAL CUP (1,100M): DYANOOSH (B.R. Kumar) 1, Mark My Day (R.S. Jodha) 2, Crimson Rose (Abhay Singh) 3 and Inderdhanush (P. Ajeeth K) 4. Neck, 1-1/2 and Head. 1m, 7.77s. ₹96 (w) 31, 26 and 28 (p). SHP: 61, THP: 92, SHW: 62 and 48, FP: 565, Q: 679, Tanala: 4,978. Favourite: Divine Connection. Owners: Mr. Sardar Jivtesh Singh, Mr. Md. Sultan & Mr. M. Praveen Kumar. Trainer: Mir Faiyaz Ali Khan.

5. NIRMAL PLATE (DIV. I) (1,400M): PLANET SUPER (Ajay Kumar) 1, N R I Dheera (Kuldeep Sr.) 2, Quality Warrior (Afroz K) 3 and Queen Empress (B.R. Kumar) 4. 1-1/2, Nose and 2-1/4. 1m, 29.04s. ₹59 (w), 12, 13 and 28 (p). SHP: 32, THP: 75, SHW: 24 and 13, FP: 430, Q: 196, Tanala: 3,217. Favourite: Queen Empress. Owner: Mr. T. Amarender Reddy. Trainer: S. Sreekant.

6. MIRZA ZUNNUR AHMED MEMORIAL CUP (1,600M): OLIVER'S MOUNT (K.G. Likith Appu) 1, Brooklyn Beauty (G. Naresh) 2, Role Model (Gaurav) 3 and First Class (B. Nikhil) 4. Not run: Flying Fury. Nose, 2-1/4 and 2. 1m, 42.12s. ₹45 (w), 15 and 10 (p). SHP: 45, THP: 84, SHW: 15 and 10, FP: 193, Q: 76, Tanala: 2,348. Favourite: Toffee. Owners: M/s. Vazhaparambil John Joseph, Bharat Venkat Epur & Ayyadevara Srinivas. Trainer: L. D'Silva.

7. LOYAL MANZAR PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200M): SWEET DANCER (Kuldeep Singh Jr.) 1, Sucker Punch (P. Ajeeth K) 2, Aos Si (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Glimmer Of Hope (Gaurav) 4. 4-1/2, Head and 1-1/4. 1m, 15.81s. ₹65 (w), 20, 36 and 13 (p). SHP: 90, THP: 69, SHW: 27 and 33, FP: 839, Q: 297, Tanala: 2,816. Favourite: Aos Si. Owner: Mr. Suresh Chintamaneni. Trainer: Ananta Vatsalya.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹4,43,276 (c/o) & 30%: 1,89,975 (1 tkt). Mini Jackpot: (i) 54,066 (1 tkt), (ii) 40,578 (3 tkts.). Treble: (i) 17,420 (2 tkts.), (ii) 2,589 (25 tkts.).

Sindhu, Lakshya eye comeback at Arctic Open after Paris setback

The tournament marks the first outing for the duo since the Olympic Games; they have reassessed their performances and implemented changes with the hope to regain their rhythm

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
VANTAA

Star shuttlers P.V. Sindhu and Lakshya Sen will lead the Indian contingent at the Arctic Open Super 500 tournament commencing here on Tuesday, as they look to reclaim their momentum on the international stage following a medal-less outing at the Paris Olympics.

This tournament marks the first outing for Sindhu and Lakshya since the Olympic Games, and they are keen to reset their goals.

The duo has reassessed their performances and implemented changes to regain their rhythm. Sindhu has roped in Anup Sridhar and Korean legend Lee Syun Il as her new coaches, moving on from Indonesia's Agus Dwi Santoso.

Back in action: Lakshya and Sindhu will lead the Indian contingent at the Super 500 tournament in Finland. FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Physical assessment

Lakshya, who narrowly missed a medal in Paris, spent time at the Red Bull Arena in Austria for physical assessment.

In the opening round, Sindhu, who exited in the round of 16 in Paris, will face familiar rival Canada's Michelle Li, while Sen, who lost in the bronze medal playoff, will compete against Denmark's Rasmus Gemke.

Double Olympic medallist Sindhu is favoured to overcome Li and could face 18-year-old Japanese sensation Tomako Miyazaki, the 2022 junior world champion, in the next round, an opponent against whom she lost at the Swiss Open earlier this year.

Chance for revenge

For Lakshya, it's a chance for revenge against Gemke, having lost to him at the India Open in 2023.

If he overcomes Gemke, he might face seventh-seeded Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei.

K. Srikanth, returning to action at the Macau Open after a four-month injury layoff, will compete in the qualifiers alongside younger compatriots Kiran George and Sathish Kumar Karunakaran.

Former World No. 1 Srikanth is set to face George, while Sathish will battle against France's Arnaud Merkle.

In women's singles, besides Sindhu, in-form Malvika Bansod and Aakarshi Kashyap are also in contention.

Malvika, who reached the quarterfinals at the China Open Super 1000, will open against World No. 24 Sung Shuo Yun of Chinese Taipei, while Aakarshi will be up against Yvonne Li of Germany in the first round.

Promising player

Another promising player, Unnati Hooda, who won the 2022 Odisha Masters, will take on Heli Neiman of Israel in the qualifiers.

While there is no Indian representation in men's doubles, Rituparna Panda and Swetaparna Panda will compete in women's doubles, and Sathish will partner with Aadya Variyath in mixed doubles.

Gauff...all smiles. GETTY IMAGES

Gauff beats Muchova to win China Open

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

Coco Gauff overpowered Karolina Muchova in straight sets to win the China Open on Sunday for her second title of the year and eighth overall.

The 20-year-old American and last year's US Open champion stormed to victory 6-1, 6-3 in one hour, 16 minutes in Beijing.

After a disappointing few months by her standards, including surrendering her New York crown in the last 16, Gauff adds the China Open to her triumph in Auckland in January.

The sixth-ranked Gauff was under a new coaching team in the Chinese capital after splitting with Brad Gilbert last month.

"Today was by far my best match in a while," said Gauff, whose mother was court-side to see her biggest win since the US Open.

She said. "I think I'm realising more and more each day that tennis is not a measure of my value as a person," she said.

Junior Indian sailors strike it rich

Sports Bureau
HYDERABAD

The junior India team, comprising 12 sailors, won seven medals in the Oman Open championship, according to chief coach Suheim Sheikh.

"The exposure trip was part of the collaboration of the Sports Authority of India and the Yachting Association of India," said Suheim.

"It was a very creditable performance considering that top Asian countries including Thailand, UAE, Kuwait, Singapore and most middle eastern nations competed."

"The juniors are now preparing for the Asians to be held in Hong Kong and the Worlds in Argentina.

All smiles: The sailors with their reward. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Being age restricted, this is their last chance to participate at internationals while representing India as juniors," he said.

Shreya Krishna of Tamil Nadu and Lahiri Komaravelly of Hyderabad won gold and silver in the under 15 sub-junior event. Madhya Pradesh's Shashank Bhatam and Somya Singh claimed a silver each, while Statemates Akshat Dohare and Shagun Jha toiok a bronze each in the boys' and girls' junior championships respectively.

Telangana's Manya Reddy won silver in the women's class.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Bhaskar pots senior men's billiards crown

B. Bhaskar beat M.L. Lakshman 4-0 to win the men's senior billiards title at the State-ranking billiards and snooker tournament here.

The results: Final: B. Bhaskar bt M.L. Lakshman 4–0 (150-100, 152 (101)-141, 150-127, 150-125).
Third-place match: D. Rajkumar bt I.H. Manudev 2–1 (145-150, 152-113, 150-79).

Top two: Bhaskar, right, with runner-up Lakshman. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Hockey Karnataka trials on Oct. 12

Hockey Karnataka will conduct a trial on October 12 at the Hockey Stadium to select the State senior men's team for the upcoming Hockey India senior men's National championship in Chennai from November 4 to 15.

Sporting Club Bengaluru starts with a win

Sporting Club Bengaluru defeated BUFC 2-0 on the opening day of the UrbanRise BDFA Super Division League football here on Monday.

The results: Real Chikkamagaluru FC 0 drew with HAL FC 0.

Sporting Club Bengaluru 2 (Roshan Singh 28, Ishan Raghunandan 88) bt BUFC 0.

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
The Executive Engineer, KBJNL NRBC Division No.5 Rodalbanda-584127,
Tq :Lingasugur, Dist: Raichur email:kbjnleenrbc5@gmail.com
No. KBJNL/NRBC/D-5/PB/2024-25/461 Dtd:-20.09.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-TENDERING MODE ONLY)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer KBJNL, NRBC Division No-5, Rodalabanda invites Two cover percentage tenders from eligible contractors for AME of NRBC Canal Network from Km 0.00 to 82.00 up to March 2025 for the year 2024-25.

1) Cover Type: Two cover **2) No of works:** KBJNL/2024-25/SE0059 **3) Access date for applying for tender :** 05.10.2024 **4) Pre-Bid Meeting:** 09.10.2024 at 11.00 AM **5) Last date for applying for tender:**16.10.2024 till 5.00PM **6) Opening of Technical Bid**: 18.10.2024 at 11.00 AM **7) Opening of Financial Bid:** 21.10.2024 at 11.00 AM (Tentative)

The tender will be opened in this office as mentioned in the above dates. Further information can be had from the office of undersigned during the office hours & also from e-procurement https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KBJNL, NRBC Div No-5, Rodalbanda
DIP/RCR/443/KSMCA/440/2024-25

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No: 07-CWS-MYSS-2024-25
Dated : 01-10-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Provision of SS metal trough below RMPU (Roof Mounted Air-Conditioning Unit) in place of FRP trough in 200 coaches.	Rs. 59,51,572/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 22-10-2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Chief Workshop Manager
Mysuru
PUB/480/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum-3 to Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/10/2024 Dated : 31-05-2024

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Request for proposal for Appointment of General Consultant for Construction Organisation in South Western Railway. **(Tender Ref. No.: GENL-CONSULTANCY-CON-SWR)**	Rs. 76,10,78,356/-

Date of Closing	
Existing	**Revised**
04-10-2024 (15:00 Hrs)	**14-10-2024 (15:00 Hrs)**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer / Construction / Works
Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/482/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

District supply office, sriganganagar
Collectroate campus, sriganganagar
E-mail id dsofood-gan-rj@nic.in Tel no:01542445006
S.NO. Date:-

E-BID NOTICE
e-Bid No- 02/2024-25/2509 is invited for procurement of transportation work of Handling and Transportation of food grains/Sugar under PDS from FCI Depost in various places under Distt. Sriganganagar including Distt. Anupgarh. Estimated value of procurement is 3.14 Crore only. Details regarding terms and conditions & others may be seen in Bid Documents on website **hppp://sppp.raj.nic.in**. Bid forms may be seen and downloaded from website **eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.** This Bid shall be processed through e-procurement portal of Govt of Rajasthan.
UBN- FCC2425SLOB00064
NIB CODE-FCC2425A0045

(KAVITA)
District Supply Officer
Sri Ganganagar
DIPR/C/9479/2024

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 22-MYS 2024-25
Dated : 29.09.2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Sl.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value
1	CNC under - floor Pit Wheel Lathe with shed. Tender No. L9245944A	Rs. 8.52 Cr.
2	Passenger Lift of 20 Person Capacity. Tender No. L9245989	Rs. 5.12 Cr.

Last date for submission of bid for tender is **Sl. NO. 1) 23.10.2024 and Sl. No. 2) 04.11.2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date
Senior Divisional Materials Manager
Mysuru
PUB/481/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is brought to the notice of the general public that, our client has negotiated and agreed to purchase the Site bearing No. 553/B, measuring East to West 15.24 Meters and North to South 25.40 Meters, totally measuring 387.35 Square Meters, situated at 4th Block, Koramangala, which is described in the Schedule hereunder from its owner. All persons having any claim against the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, conveyance, MOU, Agreement to Sell, transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned **within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice,** failing which our clients shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All the piece and parcel of Vacant Site bearing **No. 553/B,** measuring East to West 1**5.24 Meters** and North to South **25.40 Meters,** totally measuring **387.35 Square Meters,** situated at **4th Block, Koramangala,** bounded on:
East by : Site No. 553/A, West by : Site No. 553/C, North by : Site No. 577/B, South by : Road.

Jury Legal Solutions,
No. 8, 14th Cross, 14th Main, 4th Sector, HSR Layut, Bangalore-560102.
M : 9611855510/9663333037/ 8861214897/9902195500
Bangalore Date : 08-10-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE
Pursuant to the instructions from and on behalf of my client, I do here by serve the following Notice to the General Public.
That the property as more particularly described in the schedule hereunder belongs to Sri. T. N. Nagaraj son of Late T. S. Narayana Rao, aged about 79 years, residing at MIG-22, KHB – JKT, Kuvempunagara, Mysuru and the said Sri. T. N. Nagaraj has offered to sell the Schedule Property in favour of my client.
Therefore, any person(s) having any claim in respect to the referred property or part thereof by way of Sale, Exchange, Mortgage, Charge, Gift, Maintenance, Inheritance, possession, Lease, Tenancy, Sub tenancy, Lien, License, Hypothecation, Transfer of title or beneficial interest under any Trust right of prescription or pre-emption under any Agreement or other disposition or under any Decree, Order or Award or otherwise claiming, howsoever, are hereby requested to make the same known in writing together with all the documents to the undersigned at the below given address within a period of 15 (Fifteen) days (both days inclusive) of the publication here of failing which the claim of such person(s) will deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned.
:SCHEDULE:
All that piece and parcel of the immovable Residential Property bearing House No. 22, MIG, 2nd Stage, Jayanagara Thonachikoppal Extension, Kuvempunagar, Chamaraja Mohalla, Mysore, measuring East to West 60 feet (18.288037 meters) and North to South 45 feet (13.716027 meters), in total admeasuring 2700 square feet (250.8392 square meters), together with RCC roofed building constructed on ground and first floors, and is bounded by: East by: Road; West by: Property bearing House Nos. 30 & 31 LIG, North by : Property bearing House No. 21; South by: Property bearing House No. 23.,
Nagendra Prasad D.G.
India Law Practice – ILP
Advocates and Attorneys
No. 663, 1st Floor, 17th Main, Near Poornima Hospital, Saraswathipuram, Mysuru City – 570009. Ph: 0821-4241296/ 4262520 nagendra@ilplaw.co.in
Dt:07-10-2024 Mysuru

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
Tamil Nadu Disaster Risk Reduction Agency / Commissionerate of Revenue Administration & Disaster Management
Chepauk, Chennai 600 005.

INVITATION OF BIDS UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR GOODS

1. For details visit **https://tntenders.gov.in**
2. **Tender ID: 2024_TNDRR_491491_1**
3. On behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, the Director, Disaster Management, Tamil Nadu Disaster Risk Reduction Agency / Commissionerate of Revenue Administration & Disaster Management invites Bids for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of Works	Date of availability of Bid Document	Last date for submission of bid through online	Date & time of opening of Technical bid
1.	**Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Maintenance of 2 (TWO) C-Band Dual Polarized Solid State Power Amplifier (SSPA) based Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) including all peripherals**	**08-10-2024 to 07-11-2024 upto 3.00 PM**	**07-11-2024 upto 3.00 PM**	**07-11-2024 at 4.00 PM onwards**

DIRECTOR
Disaster Management,
DIPR/4111/Tender/2024 **Tamil Nadu Disaster Risk Reduction Agency.**

BUSINESS CONNECT

A Business Initiative

3rd Edition of Bengaluru Gold Festival launched on the auspicious Eve of Navaratri in Namma Bengaluru

The most awaited gold festival of the year, The Bengaluru Gold Festival organized by the Jewellers' Association Bengaluru (JAB) is back for its grand 3rd edition, and it's bigger and better than ever before! Launched on the auspicious Eve of Navaratri at Vinayaka Swamy Temple in the presence of prestigious dignitaries Mr. C K Ramamurthy, MLA, Jayanagar, Govt of Karnataka and Dr T A Sharavana, MLC, Govt of Karnataka along with Dr Chetan Kumar Mehta, President-Jewellers Association Bengaluru (JAB) and Suresh Kumar Ganna, Chairman, Bengaluru Gold Festival. The festival offers plethora of jewellery collection featuring exquisite designs right from traditional to modern pieces crafted by renowned jewellery brands and artisans. During the launch Dr Chetan Kumar Mehta, President, Jewellers Association Bengaluru (JAB) said, "The first and the second editions were huge success and now, in its third edition, we are taking this initiative to the next level with new features and promotions. We seek the participation and support of the entire jewellery industry in Bengaluru." Suresh Kumar Ganna, Chairman, Bengaluru Gold Festival said, "The first two editions of Bengaluru Gold Festival was very well organised and appreciated by all. We will be adding new features and bigger prices in the 3rd edition to ensure each retailer participates and benefits." Like every year this year too, the Festival will have Lucky Draw and Prizes, so don't miss this opportunity to indulge in the luxury of gold shopping and witness the brilliance of craftsmanship on display. Join the Bengaluru Gold Festival for an unforgettable experience! The event is organised by Jewellers Association Bengaluru (JAB); Co-Sponsored by Jewels of India; Official Logistic Partner Sequel; Technology Partner Saleswizz; and Trade Media Partner The Art of Jewellery Magazine.

20th Anniversary Celebration & Adishwar Annual Meeting

Recentlty the 20th Anniversary Celebration and Adishwar Kutumbotsava, annual meeting was organised at Palace Grounds, Bengaluru. This special occasion brought together over 1200 members of the Adishwar family, including dedicated staff and ISD team. Over the last 20 years, Adishwar has become a trusted name in the consumer electronics industry, serving more than 1 million satisfied customers. Unwavering support of the people has made success possible. They were excited to introduce a new venture–Dus Minute by Adishwar, supermarket business, as they expand their offerings to serve customers better. During the event, they unveiled their much-awaited Dasara and Deepavali Festive Campaign, which feature unbeatable offers, exciting gifts, and grand prizes. This year's campaign promises to be "Never Before and Never Imagined," reaching far and wide to make this festive season truly special.

BEL & SAC, ISRO, sign MoU for productionisation of space-grade TWTAs in India

Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Space Applications Centre (SAC), ISRO, Ahmedabad, have signed an MoU to collaborate, indigenise and develop infrastructure for the productionisation of space-grade Travelling Wave Tube Amplifiers (TWTAs) in India. Signed at SAC Ahmedabad, the MoU will give a boost to the indigenisation of defence and space production and save foreign exchange for the country. TWTA is a complex multi-disciplinary technology involving controlled interaction of microwave with electron beam under ultrahigh vacuum conditions. State-of-the-art fabrication and manufacturing facility for TWTAs has been established at BEL. TWTAs developed by SAC, ISRO, and manufactured by BEL will be used in satellite communication and navigation payloads, microwave remote sensing radar payloads, scientific missions or probes and inter-spacecraft communications links. These items are integral parts of various communication and microwave remote sensing payloads. Mr Nilesh M Desai, Director of SAC, Ahmedabad, and Mrs Niti Pandit, General Manager (Strategic Planning)/BEL-Corporate Office, signed the MoU in the presence of senior officials from both the organisations.

K Syama Raju Elected as President of FHRAI

K Syama Raju, Managing Director of Hotel Maurya, Bengaluru, and President of the Southern India Hotel & Restaurant Association (SIHRA), has been elected as the President of the Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI). In addition to his new position, Mr. K Syama Raju also serves as President of the Karnataka Tourism Society. Upon assuming office, Mr. Raju outlined FHRAI's priorities, including securing industry status for the hospitality sector, obtaining subsidies, and addressing human resource challenges. He further stressed the Federation's commitment to collaborating with state and union governments to support hoteliers and facilitate new investments, as the tourism industry is expected to witness rapid growth in the coming years.

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